



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2654, SD1
RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018

Room Number: Conference Room 211

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 1 (S.B. 2654, SD1)
5 as a measure to protect the public's health. The bill restricts shipping tobacco products and
6 prohibits the remote sale and distribution of cigarettes and tobacco products, including electronic
7 smoking devices (ESD) to consumers except for licensed wholesalers or dealers. It provides for
8 the inclusion of e-liquid in the definition of tobacco products, the imposition of an excise tax, the
9 requirement for licensing and permitting fees, and increase in licensing and permitting fees. The
10 DOH defers to DOTAX for implementation, and to the AG regarding the enforcement of the
11 shipping regulations.

12 Despite tremendous progress in reducing smoking, tobacco use is still the leading cause
13 of preventable illness and death in the United States and in Hawaii.¹ It is crucial that the
14 progress made in reducing cigarette smoking among youth and young adults not be
15 compromised by the initiation of e-cigarettes. In 2017, 8.1% of high students were regular
16 cigarette users, but when it came to e-cigarettes, an alarming 25% were regular users, and 42%

¹ 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 had tried them.² Several studies have shown that youth who use e-cigarettes are more likely to
2 use regular cigarettes.^{3,4,5}

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

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

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

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

³ 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 Pediatr.* Published online January 2, 2018.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.^{6,7}

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.⁸ 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.⁹ ESDs are now the most commonly used tobacco
8 product among youth in the nation and in Hawaii.^{10,11} 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.^{12,13} The pricing, marketing, and variety of youth-friendly flavors are
11 contributing to the increased use of ESDs.¹⁴

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

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

⁷ 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.

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

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

¹⁰ 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>

¹¹ Hawaii State Department of Health, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2015)*

¹² 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>

¹³ 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

¹⁴ *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, SD1 as a multifaceted public health measure to help
10 prevent access to e-liquid and e-cigarettes among youth and young adults and to encourage users
11 to quit.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

13 **Offered Ammendments:** None

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:12:06 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Zehner	Testifying for Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are strong opposed to this bill.

LATE



February 23, 2018

RE: SUPPORT SB2654 SD1 Relating to Chapter 245 Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran & Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

At Blue Zones Project we are working to make Hawaii a happier, healthier place to live, work and play. We support SB2654 SD1, which will help to achieve better health for many of our residents, especially our youth. In Hawaii alone, smoking causes 1,400 adult deaths every year, costing \$256 million. Limiting the use of tobacco would be the most effective way to prevent a number of chronic disease and other harmful health consequences.

Although Hawaii and California have the strictest laws in the nation that prohibit the sale of tobacco to individuals under the age of 21, our children are still able to easily purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products via the Internet. This legislation will close that loophole by only allowing the shipment of cigarettes and OTPs to licensed retailers, where a person would then be able to pick up the product ordered online.

Hawaii continues to see a steep rise in the use of electronic smoking devices especially among youth. One in four Hawaii youth have used ESDs, higher than the national average. The unregulated industry of online sales allows yet another avenue for youth to easily obtain these products. There is very little regulation of these online purchases to ensure that the customer is 21 years old in accordance with our state law. The unregulated ESD industry continues to aggressively target children through a variety of online campaigns offering deep discounts and candy flavored tobacco products.

The FDA has deemed electronic smoking devices as tobacco products, which Hawaii strictly regulates. We urge the legislature to support this deeming and support the ways in which this bill addresses the definition of "e-liquid" creating consistency through the HRS, making it clear to both the public and retailers that e-liquid is a tobacco product. SB2654 SD1 will enable e-liquids to be taxed at the same rate of cigarettes; nicotine in either form poses serious health risks. This tax will help to address the growing population of youth who utilize e-liquids because of lower costs.

Beyond taxing, this bill requires the permitting and licensing for the sale of e-cigarettes, Hawaii does with all tobacco products. Currently this industry is unregulated enabling the sale in places that are traditionally high traffic for youth and placed in prominent, visible places. Through regulation there can be a targeted effort to provide education to retailers around our current tobacco laws.

We are grateful to the Committee for hearing SB2654 SD1 and hope that you will strongly consider passing this bill to support the decrease of illegal access and sales of tobacco products. Mahalo for your support in creating a better, healthier Hawaii.

With aloha,

Cherie Andrade
Community Project Manager



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:56:54 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Wolery	Testifying for PCG Enterprises LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Increasing tax by 70% will decimate the industry here. Oppose this bill

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:46:12 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Anderson	Testifying for Black Lava Vape	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 states 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.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:07:24 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Honma	Testifying for Smokeless Hawaii	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 states 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 it would help if State officials we elect would work w/ Hawaii Businesses instead of against us. You folks do understand by enacting this law, You will be sending all of you local tax \$ overseas.

Best Regards,

Gerald Honma

Smokeless Hawaii Enterprises

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:11:01 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurtis M	Testifying for Black Lava Vape	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 states 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.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:06:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vin Kim	Individual	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 e-cigarettes 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."

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To whom It may concern,

I oppose bill **SB2654 SD1**. 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:19:43 PM

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



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

Comments:

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:25:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a practicing pediatrician in Honolulu and am support of SB2654SD1. It makes sense that ESDs should be regulated as other nicotine products already are 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.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:20:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafael Montero	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose. Thank you for the opportunity to speak my voice.

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:25:18 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:26:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Grehawick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB2654 SD1 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 states 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.

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:49:15 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garrick Aylesworth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:50:22 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Billy Gebin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I believe bill SB2654 is extremely unnecessary due to the fact e-cigarettes have absolutely no tobacco at all. Please do yourselves the research. Amongst vaping, many other people are for it. Considering it has been helping people quit smoking cigarettes. E-cigarettes are not tobacco. Nicotine is not tobacco. Nicotine is nicotine. If we stop majority of the public to be able to order freely what they want to order people will be violated. Such as the bill passing the 21 and over age to smoke. People can go to the military and fight for our country but they can't vape or smoke. Very unreasonable and pointless. These are grown adults we are speaking of. Vape shops should not require a tobacco permit, again there is NO TOBACCO. Vaping is saving lives. I help people quit smoking, and vaping completely and 100% of the people I've helped have never felt better. Help the cause, do not be against it.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:02:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Gaspar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill should not be passed as any vape related products do not contain any tobacco whatsoever. There is no tobacco at all, and also nicotine itself is not tobacco. Many research follows that vaping absolutely has no tobacco at all. Devices are not tobacco units as well. E-cigarettes should not fall under any bills or laws along with cigarettes. It is completely different, therefore a tobacco permit should not be required. As far as transportation and ordering, you are stopping people from ordering what they want. E-cigarettes are helping people.

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:46:26 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blaine Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The purpose of this pointless. Due to the fact that anything vape related has no trace of tobacco. Nicotine itself is not tobacco, therefore e-cigarettes should not be classified as a tobacco product and therefore should not require a tobacco permit. Shipping or ordering e-cigarettes should not be regulated due to the fact that its proven to help people quit smoking unless you are all pro-cigarettes and tobacco users. People are gettin sick from cigarettes, and making it restricted amongst people will hurt them.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:13:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Folio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Katie Folio and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 2654 as a private citizen residing in Kula on the island of Maui. Vaping is one of the biggest issues facing Maui County youth and is more common than drug use and underage drinking. At least one out of 3 of our high school kids currently vapes, and many more have tried it at least once. The ESD industry is not subject to the same rules as tobacco, yet our kids are developing nicotine addictions at alarming rates due to ESD use among youth. Studies have shown that the majority of the liquids kids vape contain nicotine, even the ones that claim they are nicotine free. The ESD industry should be held to the same standards as the tobacco industry, and this starts with some form regulation. It's not right that there are currently no regulations in place. Please pass SB 2654 to help protect our kids - we need more oversight of the locations and products being sold, how they arrive here in Hawaii, and the price point at which they are available.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,

Katie Folio

Kula, Maui, Hawaii

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:00:41 PM

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



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

Comments:

I have been a resident of this island for the past five years and i have started a family here. i am originally from the mainland, Pennsylvania to be exact where the schools are located in vacanicy of many things that this bill obvioulsy opposes.VAPE IS NOT TOBACCO, there is no tobacco used in any e-liquid, electronic vaping device, or accesories. CVS for example no longer sells tobacco products but they can rightfully sell the patch which contains nicotine and not need a permt? World is about equality and this example alone is putting us a minority party when other countries embrace the healthier alternative.Legislation needs to step up and do away with the nonsense, maybe some exstensive research and conversation with other countries would help open your eyes. Not only are you trying to ruin peoples livelyhood that these shops have created, your creating a bill that will negartively impact the improvements so many have already transationed to from tradional tobacco cigareetts. Vape shops give the healthier alternative and you feel the need to apply a permit on something that helps people from intaking 4,000+ chemicals from regular cigarettes. from the past bills trying to be passed it seems as if the government want to lead people always away from the cleary obvious "healthier" alternative. these "reports" documented on the bill to me are meaningless because any person child or adult is going to find a way to do what they want if there mind is set strong enough. Youth have a mind of there own and you know whats funny to me, you guys have already increased the age to purchase to 21 so why worry about youth located close to a shop. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW ALREADY. i see gas stations serving not only disposable electronic cigarettes, but alchol and tobacco products located within the same range this bill wants to support. will they have to close? i dont beleive so. this law trying to be passed is alreadyd supported from the age increase. Look into the mirror and ask yourself can you take a healthier alternative away from the public just because of its location? The government in my eyes never tries to safe lives, there all about appreance and profit which is undoubtly saddening to the heart. i will have to explain to my children the voices of the few remain unheard. mahalo

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:02:22 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesus Avila	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill needs to be killed because it will increase the tax on eliquid, which will pretty much kill the local industry. This will force people to switch back to traditional cigarettes because it will then become the cheaper alternatie. This State has pushed very hard over the years to help get people off tobacco products, & many of them have quit or switched to vaping.

This bill will cause people to switch back, thus causing harm to themselves & result in more tobacco related deaths & health problems in the future.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:31:25 PM

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

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

Comments:

This bill simply is unfair to our industry, where & How does these percentages come about? The impact that this could have on the local small business & customers that have already quit wouldn't help,

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:46:40 AM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

This will kill jobs and businesses, hurt Hawaii residents, and is just a bad, misguided idea.

LATE

SB-2654-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:57:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Kay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2654 SD1 which would regulate e-liquids and electronic smoking devices (ESDs) as tobacco products through taxation, shipment, and licensing and permitting.

E-cigarettes, more commonly known as "vaping" has become an entire culture in my generation, even though participating in it is both illegal in Hawaii and dangerously harmful to a youth's health in the future. Yet, I see posts on social media constantly promoting these products and their "fun flavors" to people around my age daily with little to no regulation. I even attempted to buy vape on my school campus and was successful! The lack of regulation of these products, both on the island and online is incredibly dangerous for me and many of my peers. Vaping is essential this generation's cigarette and should be treated correctly, with proper taxing and regulation.

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 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 and enforce current tobacco laws.

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

Mahalo,
Sara Kay Punahou School

LATE

Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

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

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

I strongly support SB2654 SD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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.

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

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

Sonya Niess	Venkataraman Balaraman	Tenaya Jackman	Malia Shimokawa
cindy wong	Nikaela Busekrus	Bryan Mih	