

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B.276  
RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: January 31, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Bill 276 (H.B. 276)  
3 which proposes to amend Chapter 712, HRS by prohibiting the sale or distribution of all flavored  
4 tobacco products, including products with menthol, in the State of Hawaii effective January 1,  
5 2020.

6 The unprecedented youth vaping epidemic in Hawaii has become a serious public health  
7 issue. Exposure to nicotine during adolescence can cause addiction and harm the developing  
8 adolescent brain.<sup>1</sup> In contrast to the positive decline in combustible tobacco smoking, use of  
9 electronic smoking devices (ESDs), also known as vaping or e-cigarettes, has increased  
10 dramatically over the last decade, making ESDs the most common tobacco product used among  
11 youth.

12 Hawaii data showed that from 2011 to 2015, experimentation with vaping among middle  
13 school students increased six-fold while among high school youth it increased by four-fold.<sup>2</sup>  
14 According to the Hawaii 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 16% of middle school and 26%  
15 high school youth are current ESD users. The prevalence rates are even higher on the neighbor

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<sup>1</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services. E-cigarette use among youth and young adults: a report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Hawaii State Department of Health 2015 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse

1 islands with Hawaii County at 34%; Maui County at 32%; and Kauai County at 31%<sup>3</sup> These  
2 percentages are over twice as high as the national average of 13%<sup>4</sup>

3 Scientific studies are increasingly reporting that flavors are one of the main reasons that  
4 youth use tobacco. In recent years, there has also been an explosion of sweet or kid-friendly  
5 flavored tobacco products, especially for ESDs and cigars. A 2014 study identified more than  
6 7,700 unique e-cigarette flavors, with an average of more than 240 new flavors being added per  
7 month.<sup>5</sup> Among student responders to the 2017 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey reporting ever-  
8 using ESDs, 26% stated the availability of “flavors such as mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate” was  
9 their primary reason for using ESDs. Further, one in four said they did not believe ESDs to be  
10 dangerous.<sup>2</sup>

11 The 2009 federal Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, prohibited the  
12 sale of cigarettes with characterizing flavors other than menthol or tobacco, including candy and  
13 fruit flavors with the purpose of deterring youth smoking. (Amongst cigarette flavors available  
14 was Camel’s “*Kauai Kolada*” described as, “Hawaiian hints of pineapple and coconut,” in  
15 special edition packaging featuring a recumbent dark-haired young woman wearing a lime-slice  
16 lei, bikini top and hula skirt.) This prohibition only extended to flavored cigarettes and their  
17 flavored cigarette component parts, such as tobacco, filter, or paper.”<sup>6</sup> It did not apply to non-  
18 cigarette tobacco products, nor the flavors of menthol and tobacco. The absence of regulation  
19 has led to the proliferation of flavored tobacco products in the marketplace, enticing new users,  
20 particularly youth, to a lifetime of nicotine addiction. This growing market for flavored tobacco  
21 products is undermining the nation’s overall progress in reducing youth tobacco use.

22 The Department supports this legislation to ban flavored tobacco products. Ending the  
23 sale of flavored tobacco products is an issue of both health and social justice. Candy and fruit

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<sup>3</sup> Hawaii State Department of Health 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse

<sup>4</sup> US Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Systems, 2017, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Flavor Trap: How Tobacco Companies are Luring Kids with Candy Flavored E-cigarettes and Cigars. March 2017. Retrieved on January 29, 2019 from [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/microsites/flavortrap/executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/microsites/flavortrap/executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Ctr. For Tobacco Products, Food & Drug Admin., Guidance to Industry and FDA Staff: General Questions and Answers on the Ban of Cigarettes that Contain Certain Characterizing Flavors 1 (2D ED.) (2009)

1 flavored tobacco products are being marketed to youth intentionally as a way of replacing adult  
2 smokers of traditional cigarettes. Those who use flavored tobacco products are more likely to  
3 progress to regular smoking. The major tobacco companies continue to invest heavily in  
4 flavored tobacco products with their own brands or acquired existing e-cigarette companies.  
5 Global e-cigarette industry grew dramatically and by 2017 was valued at 10.24 billion US  
6 dollars. Most recently, Altria, parent company of Phillip Morris, invested \$12.8 billion dollars or  
7 35 percent stake in JUUL, a product so popular with youth, “to JUUL,” is used as a synonym for  
8 vaping. A flavored pod of JUUL contains as much nicotine as 20 regular cigarettes. The passage  
9 of H.B. 276 would be a significant policy to close the market of appealing products that are  
10 addicting our youth and young adults to nicotine.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

**LATE**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 276, RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**DATE:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 329

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Richard W. Stacey, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports the intent of the bill and provides the following comments and suggested amendments.

The bill seeks to address the health dangers caused by flavored tobacco products as used by both adults and youth in Hawaii.<sup>1</sup> The bill seeks to create a new criminal offense for any retailers or their agents or employees selling, offering for sale or possessing with intent to sell or offer for a sale, a flavored tobacco product. In addition the bill provides definitions of “E-liquid” and “Flavored tobacco product.”

We note some wording issues that may need to be addressed. It appears that some of the wording used in section 2 of the bill (pages 5-6) borrows from section 712-1258(6), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which proscribes the sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices (ESDs) to persons under twenty-one years of age. There are areas where the wording here may need to be amended to conform with the intent of this bill. For instance, section 2, “§712- ”, subsection (3) (page 6, lines 3-8) states that “[a]ny tobacco product or [ESD] in the retailer’s possession at the time of

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<sup>1</sup> See *Grusendorf v. City of Oklahoma City*, 816 F.2d 539 (10th Cir.1987) (the act of smoking a cigarette does not rise to the level of a fundamental right), as cited by *City of North Miami v. Kurtz*, 653 So.2d 1025, 1028 (Fla. 1995). In addition, in 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned cigarettes with characterizing flavors other than menthol (e.g., cherry, chocolate), which are known to appeal to youth and young adults, U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Menthol and Other Flavors in Tobacco Products, available at <https://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/Labeling/ProductsIngredientsComponents/ucm2019416.htm#reference>. Last visited January 30, 2019. In November 2018, the FDA announced new planned restrictions on certain flavored products related to e-cigarettes. <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm625884.htm>. Last visited January 30, 2019.

violation of this section shall be seized, summarily forfeited to the State and destroyed by law enforcement following the conclusion of an administrative or judicial proceeding finding that a violation of this section has been committed.” This wording, although taken almost verbatim from section 712-1258(6), HRS, seems to leave open the possibility that all tobacco products and ESDs in the retailer’s possession at the time of the violation shall be forfeited. This raises due process concerns. If the intent is that only the prohibited flavored tobacco products are to be considered contraband and forfeited, instead of all tobacco products and ESDs in the retailer’s possession, some clarifying wording would address that concern. The wording should be more specific as to flavored tobacco products only. Language similar to the exemption for contraband cigarettes in the forfeiture statute, section 712A-5(d), HRS, might also be considered – “Contraband or untaxed cigarettes in violation of chapter 245, shall be seized and summarily forfeited to the State without regard to the procedures set forth in this chapter.”

There is a similar issue raised by section 2, “§712- ”, subsection (4) (page 6, lines 9-10), which states that a person in violation “may be fined as provided in section 712-1258(6) by the enforcing agency.” The penalties set forth in section 712-1258(6), HRS, however, are tied to specific provisions of that section, and would not necessarily fit the violations set forth here. Spelling out the specific penalties for violations of this particular criminal offense within this bill should address that issue. The term “enforcing agency” is incorrect, since the courts would issue any fines or penalties for a criminal offense, not the enforcing agency.

On a related note, since this new criminal offense will be set forth in chapter 712, HRS, within the penal code, there does not appear to be a need to specify which entities will enforce this crime, (“enforcing agency,” as defined in section 2, “§712- ”, subsection (6) (page 8, lines 9-13)), as any law enforcement entity authorized to enforce state laws will have the ability to do so.

Section 4 states that “[t]his Act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 2 of this Act.” Page 9, lines 14-15. Section 2, as discussed earlier, sets forth the wording making the sale of flavored tobacco products a criminal

offense. While this wording may prove helpful, in a criminal statute the burdens are higher than in other laws, and any ambiguity would likely be resolved in the criminal defendant's favor under the rule of lenity. "The rule of lenity 'instructs that, where a statute is ambiguous, courts should not interpret the statute so as to increase the penalty that it places on the defendant.'" United States v. Hertler, 776 F.3d 680, 685–86 (9th Cir. 2015), as cited by United States v. Edling, 895 F.3d 1153, 1158 (9th Cir. 2018).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments and offered amendments on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 01/31/2019  
**Time:** 09:30 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0276 RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Bans the sale of flavored tobacco products. Effective 1/1/2020.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports HB 276, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOE approved budget

The 2017 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey data indicate that almost half of Hawaii's youths have tried e-cigarettes, and 25% are now regular users. Although cigarette use has declined in recent years, it is still concerning, with 22% of high school students saying that they have smoked a cigarette. The nicotine in tobacco products has been found to be addictive and is especially harmful to youth neurologic development. There are numerous other negative health consequences associated with the use of tobacco products and second hand exposure to tobacco smoke and electronic smoking devices (ESD) vapor, including higher rates of asthma and respiratory infection. These health conditions may limit a student's ability to attend and participate fully in school and may have long term effects on their educational attainment.

The Department of Education, in partnership with the Department of Health, is committed to helping students develop healthy practices, aimed toward achieving optimal academic success. Toward this end, the Department is actively engaged in educating our youth as to the harmful risks and dangers associated with the growing use of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. These efforts include a social media campaign, encouraging school-level student-led projects (e.g., video, art, essays, presentations, etc.), distributing informational pamphlets to students, erecting posters discouraging the use of all tobacco products, embedding curriculum on this topic into health and physical education classes, and holding parent nights to disseminate information.

The safety and well-being of all of our students is paramount to the Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).





**LATE**

**HB276**  
**RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**  
House Committee on Health

January 31, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB276, which seeks to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products. This bill would help protect Native Hawaiian adults and youth—who already exhibit high rates of tobacco product use and chronic disease—from the cumulative and harmful health consequences of e-cigarette and other tobacco use.

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies which reduce health inequities faced by Native Hawaiians. Most recently, OHA spearheaded the State effort to codify “social determinants of health” through Act 155 (Reg. Sess. 2014) and require state agencies to take a holistic and systemic approach to addressing health disparities seen in Native Hawaiian and other communities. In furtherance with our strategic plan and advocacy efforts, we now seek to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians by reducing substance abuse, including tobacco and nicotine products.

Smoking and tobacco use have had severe consequences for Native Hawaiians. For example, Native Hawaiian women have the highest rates of asthma in the State,<sup>1</sup> and exposure to tobacco smoke exacerbates such respiratory issues, making asthma very dangerous and difficult to control. Moreover, health data reveals that lung and bronchus cancers associated with tobacco use kill more kāne (31.3%) than any other form of cancer; this trend has remained steady since 1975.<sup>2</sup> Alarming, nearly one in five Native Hawaiians is a current smoker<sup>3</sup>; and Native Hawaiian youth are more likely than any other ethnic youth group in Hawai’i to use electronic vaping products, with one in three of these users being adolescent females.<sup>4</sup>

E-cigarette use in particular has become “a major health concern” among youth nationwide, according to the United States Surgeon General. To address the skyrocketing rates of vaping in high schools and middle schools, the FDA has recently moved toward a

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<sup>1</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING (2018).

<sup>2</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, KĀNEHŌ’ĀLANI – TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN MEN (2017).

<sup>3</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING (2018).

<sup>4</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN DATA BOOK (2019).

ban on flavored e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes, and flavored cigars; national advocacy is also prompting efforts to ban favored tobacco products that are clearly marketed toward and popular among youths. By prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarette “juice,” **HB276 will place Hawai’i at the lead of such efforts to protect children and adults alike, while promoting the well-being of the Native Hawaiian community and a healthier Hawai’i overall.**

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB276. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Justin F. Kollar**  
Prosecuting Attorney



**Rebecca Vogt Like**  
Second Deputy

**Jennifer S. Winn**  
First Deputy

**Diana Gausepohl-White**  
Victim/Witness Program Director

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758  
Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

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**THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019  
State of Hawai'i**

January 30, 2019

**RE: H.B. 276; RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and members of the House Committee on Health, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i ("Office") strongly supports H.B. 276.

The purpose of H.B. 276 is to prohibit the sale or distribution of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, in the State of Hawai'i towards the goal of curbing the recent explosion in use of electronic smoking devices among the youth of Hawai'i.

Flavored tobacco products, primarily those marketed towards users of electronic smoking devices, clearly target children and teens. Flavors like "Fruit Hoops", "Sour Straws" and "Cookie Monsta" with their sweet odors and flavors pervade our middle and high schools. Although the FDA has recently taken some steps towards curbing these predatory practices, those steps are too hesitant and will not prevent irreversible damage from being done to the health of thousands of young people in Hawai'i. Although some proponents have indicated that electronic smoking devices reduce use of conventional cigarettes, they have also resulted in a tremendous and sudden increase in tobacco usage by young people. It must also be noted that electronic smoking devices are NOT FDA-approved tobacco cessation devices.

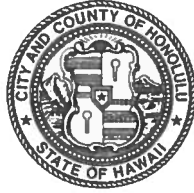
For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i strongly supports H.B. 276. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org

**LATE**

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY  
JONATHAN GREMS  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE JP-SA

January 30, 2019

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

I am J Pedro, Major of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD strongly supports House Bill 276, which proposes the ban on flavored tobacco products. The marketing of flavored tobacco products clearly target sales to the under twenty-one age group as well as our youth to their initiation into the use of nicotine products. Nicotine has proved to be highly addictive and is a threat to the health of our youth and the public. It is very difficult for people to break this addiction once started.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 276.

Sincerely,

  
J Pedro, Major  
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED BY:

  
Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police



January 31, 2019

**RE: SUPPORT HB 276 Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products**

Dear Chair Mizuno & Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

At Blue Zones Projects we are working to make Hawaii a happier, healthier place to live, work and play. We support HB276, which will ban the sale of all flavored tobacco products. Ultimately reducing the number of users and potential users.

Youth are highly attracted to the variety, 15,500 + and growing, flavors. These are marketed to appeal to young people. With names like Fruit Hoops, Cali Colada, Space Jam, TrollzE, and Blizzard Berry-BRRRST, clearly the industry is targeting children under 21. By attracting young people, the next generation of consumers is being cultivated.

It is targeted, and the messaging is working phenomenally well. Nationally, there was a 78% increase from 2017-2018 in current e-cigarette use among high school students and 48% increase among middle school students. Bringing the total number of middle and high school students currently using to 3.6 million, 1.5 million more than the previous year. Hawaii youth are part of this trend, 42% of HIDOE high school students and 27% of middle school students report having ever used an electronic vaping product.

As a state, we do not have the time to take a “wait and see” approach. The crisis is now. For years, we have done our keiki a disservice by ignoring the numbers and trusting the industry that were acting ethically. We are allowing a generation to become addicted to nicotine through the hook of flavored e-liquids. This measure is the top priority of the youth council. Our children are asking the adults to address the issue of their health and well-being; we can’t fail them.

We are grateful to the Committee for hearing HB 276, and hope that you will consider passing this bill as it is to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Mierzwa*

Peggy Mierzwa  
Statewide Policy Lead  
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

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Hawaii by



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**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:47:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Tegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**The Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund is pleased to submit this written testimony in support of HB276, and Hawaii’s effort to reduce tobacco use, particularly among youth.** Our sister organization, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, is the nation’s largest non-profit, non-governmental advocacy organization solely devoted to reducing tobacco use and its deadly toll by advocating for public policies that prevent kids from using tobacco, help smokers quit and protect everyone from secondhand smoke. While we are based in DC, we’re pleased to have nearly 400 supporters in Hawaii.

First, we would like to commend the Hawaii legislature for being a national leader in its commitment to reducing the death and disease from tobacco use. It is encouraging to see that Hawaii continues to take thoughtful, evidenced-based steps to reduce the number of kids who start using tobacco and help tobacco users quit. While your state has made great strides in reducing tobacco use, tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of premature death and disease in Hawaii and the nation, killing 480,000 Americans annually.

Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, is a critical step that will help protect Hawaii’s children from the unrelenting efforts of the tobacco industry to hook them to a deadly addiction. Flavored tobacco products are designed to alter the taste and reduce the harshness of tobacco products so they are more appealing and easy for beginners, who are almost always kids. These products are pervasive and are marketed and sold in a variety of kid-friendly flavors. With their colorful packaging and sweet flavors, flavored tobacco products are often hard to distinguish from the candy displays near which they are frequently placed in retail outlets. Nationally, seven out of ten current middle and high school tobacco users—a total of over 3.2 million youth—have used a flavored tobacco product in the past month.[\[1\]](#)

Most insidious among these flavors is menthol, which delivers a pleasant minty taste and imparts a cooling and soothing sensation. These characteristics successfully mask the harshness of tobacco, making it easier for beginner smokers and kids to tolerate smoking. The FDA’s Tobacco Product Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) has reported that:

- Menthol cigarettes increase the number of children who experiment with cigarettes and the number of children who become regular smokers, increasing overall youth smoking.
- Young people who initiate using menthol cigarettes are more likely to become addicted and become long-term daily smokers.
- Menthol cigarettes are marketed disproportionately to younger smokers.

## **Flavored Tobacco Products Are Popular Among Youth, Especially in Hawaii**

These candy-sweet products have fueled the popularity of e-cigarettes and cigars among youth. A government study found that 81 percent of kids who have ever used tobacco products started with a flavored product, including 81 percent who have ever tried e-cigarettes and 65 percent who have ever tried cigars. Moreover, youth cite flavors as a major reason for their current use of non-cigarette tobacco products, with 81.5 percent of youth e-cigarette users and 73.8 percent of youth cigar users saying they used the product “because they come in flavors I like.”<sup>[i]</sup> Across all tobacco products, the data is clear: flavored tobacco products are overwhelmingly used by youth as a starter product, and preference for flavors declines with age.

**E-cigarettes and cigars are now more popular than cigarettes, in part as a result of the appeal of flavored products. In fact, 25.5% of high schoolers in Hawaii have used e-cigarettes. This is far higher than the national average. Nearly three times as many Hawaii youth are using e-cigarettes than cigarettes (25.5% vs. 8.5%).**<sup>[ii]</sup> The Surgeon General has concluded that, “The use of products containing nicotine in any form among youth, including in e-cigarettes, is unsafe.”<sup>[iii]</sup> Additionally, a 2018 report from the National Academies of Science, Engineering & Medicine found that “There is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use increases risk of ever using combustible tobacco cigarettes among youth and young adults.”<sup>[iv]</sup> Therefore, it is critical for any policy restricting sales of flavored tobacco products to include e-cigarettes.

As the only flavored cigarette left on the market, it’s also no surprise that menthol cigarettes are popular among youth. Menthol cools and numbs the throat, reducing the harshness of cigarette smoke, thereby making menthol cigarettes more appealing to youth who are initiating smoking. More than half of youth smokers use menthol cigarettes.<sup>[v]</sup> The popularity of menthol flavored cigarettes is also evidenced by brand preference among youth. According to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, one in five smokers ages 12-17 prefers Newport cigarettes, a heavily marketed menthol cigarette brand. As noted previously, young people who initiate using menthol cigarettes are more likely to become addicted and become long-term daily smokers.<sup>[vii]</sup>

The scientific evidence leaves no doubt that flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, increase the number of people, particularly kids, who try the product, become addicted and die a premature death as a result. Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products is an important step toward protecting our children from the tobacco industry’s aggressive efforts to hook children to a deadly, addictive product.

**This issue is quite simple—it is about common sense and protecting our kids and vulnerable populations. By prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products, Hawaii would join the over 100 localities across the country that have taken action to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products, and Hawaii would lead the way, as the first state to completely end the sale of flavored tobacco products.**

**Thank you.**

Please see attached document for visual examples of flavored tobacco products.

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[i] Ambrose, BK, et al., “Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, published online October 26, 2015.

[ii] CDC, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2017,” *MMWR*, 67(8), June 15, 2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>.

[iii] HHS, *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General*.

[iv] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), *Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes*, 2018, <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx>.

[v] Villanti, A., et al., “Changes in the prevalence and correlates of menthol cigarette use in the USA, 2004–2014,” *Tobacco Control*, published online October 20, 2016.

[vi] SAMHSA’s public online data analysis system (PDAS), National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015. [http://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2015-DS0001/crosstab/?row=CIG30BR2&column=CATAG3&control=NEWRACE2&weight=ANALWT\\_C&results\\_received=true](http://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2015-DS0001/crosstab/?row=CIG30BR2&column=CATAG3&control=NEWRACE2&weight=ANALWT_C&results_received=true) and [https://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2015-DS0001/crosstab/?column=CATAG3&results\\_received=true&row=CIG30BR2&weight=ANALWT\\_C](https://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2015-DS0001/crosstab/?column=CATAG3&results_received=true&row=CIG30BR2&weight=ANALWT_C).

[vii] FDA, *Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes*, 2013, <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ScienceResearch/SpecialTopics/PeerReviewofScientificInformationandAssessments/UCM361598.pdf>.

[viii] TPSAC, *Menthol Cigarettes and Public Health: Review of the Scientific Evidence and Recommendations*, July 21, 2011.



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[\[1\]](#) Corey, CG, et al., “Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2014,” *MMWR* 64(38):1066-1070, 2015.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Thursday, January 31 2019; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 0276, RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0276, RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or possession with the intent to sell or offer to sell flavored a tobacco product;
- (2) Establish a rebuttable presumption that a tobacco product is a flavored tobacco product if a statement or claim is made to the consumer or public that the product has or produces a characterizing flavor;
- (3) Provide that any tobacco product or electronic smoking device in the retailer's possession at the time of the violation be seized and forfeited to the State, and following administrative or judicial proceedings finding that the violation was committed, be destroyed by law enforcement;
- (4) Authorizes the levying of civil fines in a manner similar to HRS §712-1258, Tobacco products and electronic smoking devices; persons under twenty-one years of age; and
- (5) Include both savings and severability clauses ; and
- (6) Take effect on January 1, 2020.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 276**

**Thursday, January 31, 2019; 9:30 a.m.**

**Page 2**

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

FQHCs have long seen first-hand how tobacco has literally destroyed the lives of our patients and their families. Because of the ubiquity of cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and now electronic smoking devices, the impacts of tobacco affect our citizenry on a generational basis with people experimenting at even earlier ages. From our perspective, the development of flavored products are intended specifically to introduce these products to younger consumers for the purpose of grooming the next generation of smokers, chewers, and vaporers.

It is for this reason that the HPCA joins the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in strong support of all efforts to rid the marketplace of these products.

On a technical note, we would like to offer two suggestions. First, because the language in HRS §712-1258, Tobacco products and electronic smoking devices, does not completely coincide with the language contained in this bill, especially regarding the imposition of the fine on a minor who violates the statute, your Committee may want to consider clarifying the language pertaining to the fine in the bill so that it is clear what punishment may be levied on violators.

Second, it is our contention that the sale of flavored tobacco is an unfair and deceptive practice in the market place. There are already laws in existence that are intended to prevent these types of commercial activities from occurring. If your Committee agrees with this finding, an option available to this Committee would be to clarify that any violation of the new section in Chapter 712, also be a violation of HRS §480-2, Unfair competition, practices, declared unlawful. Persons violating this statute may also be subjected to a civil fine of not less than \$500 but not more than \$10,000 with each separate violation being deemed a separate offense. [See, HRS § 480-15.1].

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**American  
Heart  
Association.**

**American Heart Association Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 276,  
“Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products”**

**Chairman of the Board**

Mark Yamakawa

The American Heart Association supports HB 276, “Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products.”

**President**

Kahealani Rivera, MD

Tobacco and e-cigarette products are flavored to taste like candy, fruit, chocolate, vanilla, honey, cocoa, menthol, mint, wintergreen, herb, or spice and many of the packages are designed to look exactly like popular kids candies like Sour Patch kids, Jolly Ranchers and Gummy Bears.

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The tobacco industry adds candy flavors to tobacco products and markets menthol cigarettes to appeal to specific target markets, especially children.

Why? Because Big Tobacco profits by addicting the next generation of smokers. Over 80 percent of kids who have used tobacco started with a flavored product.

In a once-secret tobacco industry document Claude Teague of R.J. Reynolds wrote “if our company is to survive and prosper, over the long term we must get our share of the youth market.” Candy-flavored tobacco products are Big Tobacco’s latest gimmick to hook young people.

Serving Hawaii since 1948

It’s time to end that by banning the use of candy flavors and menthol to entice our children into a deadly addiction.

**Mission Statement:**

“To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.”

The American Heart Association asks for your support of HB 276.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman

Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

For more information on the AHA’s educational or research programs, visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) or contact your nearest AHA office.

Office: (808) 377-6630

Fax: (808) 524-0556

Neighbor Islands:

Serviced by the Oahu office



Waipahu Intermediate School  
Youth for Safety  
94-455 Farrington Hwy · Waipahu, HI 96797



January 30, 2019

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and the members of the Health Committee,

I am a teacher at Waipahu Intermediate and also the advisor for the Youth for Safety Club and FFA (Future Farmers of America). I am testifying as an individual to support HB276.

I've heard of kids vaping in other classes, but when I caught kids vaping in my class I know it's getting really bad. I've seen a recent surge in use of e-cigarettes and vape products compared to just a year ago. I casually asked my students in my classes who has ever tried vape, and nearly 80 percent of my students have admitted to trying it. Some students even admit that their parents buy it for them because they think it's safe.

Some of the vape smells like the Bath and Body Works and Victoria Secret body sprays, so it's so hard to tell what is vape and what isn't. And the kids use those sprays to cover up the vape smell too.

Flavored tobacco products are becoming such a problem for school, it's almost impossible to enforce, and they are so cheap. Some companies charge \$1 for starter kits. So, the kids will simply toss the devices when they think security will pick them up to search them.

The only way to stop it is from the source. We need to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products. We need to help keep our kids safe.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ken Kozuma  
Waipahu Intermediate  
Youth for Safety Advisor  
FFA Advisor

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:50:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jostin Iriarte	Hi Lyfe Vaporz,LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jostin As small business owner a bill of this magnitude can affect thousands of people in the state of Hawaii that has nothing short of a positive impact In their lives, health & especially the purpose of quitting combustible cigarettes. As a small business owner my Hi Lyfe Vaporz, LLC has over 10 employees, a bill like this could impact our business as well as many across the state in such a negative manner, causing people to lose their jobs, homes they would be unable to provide for their families, not only that, many may end up going back to combustible cigarettes which infact is already known to be a health factor throughout the world. Bill's like this is simply, goes against the positive impact vaping has made for all legal adults, who transitioned to a better alternative to combustible cigarettes. I humbly ask to think before passing such a bill. Myself ,my family as well as our employees and customer's will be greatly affected negatively. I am a former smoker of 20 year's, I oppose HB276, for the simple fact that this bill is unfair in the statement of Flavors is the reason of being the root cause of the teenage vaping epidemic is false, as a former smoker of traditional combustible cigarettes, vaping and its Flavors has helped myself, family members and friends of legal smoking and vaping age whether it be State age laws or federal to stay away from and stop smoking cigarettes, since I've quit smoking and started vaping having flavors to enjoy as a law abiding citizen while vaping should be a right that shouldn't be taken away to legal adults. As an adult we should have a choice to vape a flavor!! The vaping epidemic in Hawaii and the USA of teenager are because of certain devices like "Juul" and similar ones like it being easily accessible through gas stations, convenience stores ect, at least 90% of actual vape shops have taken part in sales to minors prior to laws being in place it started from 18 years of age now in some states like here in Hawaii its 21, these vape shops, manufactures and companies who follow the rules will be getting punished for the fact that the reasons behind the epidemic isn't being directed toward. The product that most of the vaping community disagrees with due to the accessibility in gas stations & convenience stores is what most teens are using because place other than vape shops dont take it seriously when asking for ID. There should be more stings to help aid the root cause & not punishing responsible Vape shops and adults. By taking away something "flavors" vaping Eliquids ect that has made a huge impact by lessing the amount of Traditional tobacco cigarette use state and nation wide, will greatly impact citizens to go back to combustible cigarettes which is definitely more toxic due to the fact my own Doctor has told me since I quit smoking cigarettes my health is much better in comparison.

Attachment "A1" is a letter from The FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb. It states that the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has contributed to a decline of combustible tobacco, which is known to cause cancer. It also clearly states that it intends on limiting flavored cigarettes to age restricted stores, or areas.  
Mahalo Nui Loa for your your time



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

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**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Barry Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:  
Committee on Health  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 31, 2019  
TIME: 9:30am  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

RE: HB276 Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

Position: Comments

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

The federal government already has in place adequate regulations regarding flavored cigarettes. Tobacco regulations are handled at the federal level for good reason. Enforcing this type of ban on very specific kinds of a product, which are legal at the federal level would require be a potentially logistically difficult and very expensive process.

This bill unfairly targets and penalizes those who choose to use certain types of products, and the business, which serve these customers. This type of regulation is not really necessary and can be obtrusive. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.





American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
808.432.9149  
[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

House Committee on Health  
Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair

### **HB 276 – RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 276, which prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products beginning January 1, 2020.

Every year in Hawaii over 6,700 people are diagnosed with cancer. Despite the fact that US cancer death rates have decreased by 26 percent from 1991 to 2015, not all have benefited equally from the advances in prevention early detection, and treatments that have helped achieve these lower rates. Significant differences persist in cancer incidence, survival, morbidity, and mortality among specific populations. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in Hawaii.

Smoking not only causes cancer, it can damage nearly every organ in the body, including the lungs, heart, blood vessels, reproductive organs, mouth, skin, eyes, and bones. Smoking accounts for about 30 percent of all cancer deaths in the United States, including about 80 percent of all lung and bronchus cancer deaths. The impact of tobacco use goes beyond health. The annual health care costs in Hawaii directly caused by smoking are over \$500 million.

#### Flavored Tobacco Products

The 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act implemented a federal prohibition of characterizing flavors other than tobacco or menthol in cigarettes. The prohibition included candy-and fruit-flavors. However, the federal law exempts “tobacco, menthol, mint or wintergreen flavors” and flavored electronic cigarettes.

While cigarette smoking rates have declined significantly in recent years, the use of electronic cigarettes has been skyrocketing, especially among youth. During the one-year period between 2017 and 2018, among high school students who currently used e-cigarettes, use of flavored e-cigarettes increased as well. Use of any flavored e-cigarette went up among current users from 60.9 percent to 67.8 percent, and menthol use increased from 42.3 percent to 51.2 percent among all current e-cigarettes users –

including those using multiple products – and from 21.4 percent to 38.1 percent among exclusive e-cigarette users. Flavors in tobacco products are frequently listed as on the top three reasons youth use e-cigarettes. Additionally, kids whose first tobacco product was flavored are more likely to become current tobacco users than those whose first product was tobacco flavored. Furthermore, evidence indicates that many young people who use e-cigarettes also smoke cigarettes. There is some evidence that young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future. Using nicotine in adolescence may also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs.

Recent spikes in the use of e-cigarettes makes clear that more must be done to regulate tobacco products and the industry's deceptive marketing practices.

Menthol is a chemical compound that creates a cooling effect, reduces the harshness of cigarette smoke and suppresses coughing. Those effects may make menthol cigarettes more appealing to young, inexperienced smokers. Research shows that they are more likely to addict youth and more difficult to quit than regular cigarettes. Many people who smoke think menthol cigarettes are less harmful. In fact, there is no evidence that cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco products that have menthol are safer than other cigarettes. This myth has been perpetuated via a decades long campaign by the tobacco industry.

The disparities in flavored tobacco products use in the state are contributing to the negative health disparities that exists and must be addressed. ACS CAN strongly recommends implementing evidence-based policies to prevent the initiation and use of all tobacco products. The use of products containing nicotine in any form among youth is unsafe and can harm brain development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

January 28, 2019

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
And members of the Committee of Health

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 276 RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Hawaii Youth Network Services, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 276 Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products.

Elimination of flavored tobacco products across the state of Hawai'i will prevent addiction, reduce continued use of tobacco products throughout one's lifespan, and prevent chronic health conditions such as COPD and cardiovascular disease.

It is important to ban flavored tobacco products as today's marketing targets and encourages youth to take part in this unhealthy behavior. Hawaii has the fifth highest amount of vaping in the United States. E-cigarettes continue to grow in popularity leading to a potential health epidemic. With up to 15,500 flavors, e-cigarettes are of particular interest and attraction to Hawai'i's youth. Along with the enticing flavors and packaging, youth perceive e-cigarettes to be less harmful than other nicotine filled tobacco products. Students have shared that vaping is a popular activity that occurs both inside and outside of the academic setting. Youth have the ability to access flavorless tobacco through social media accounts, vape stores without regulation of the 21-year-old age law, and online orders with their parent's credit cards.

Youth do not understand the dangers of this harmful product. E-cigarettes contain toxic chemicals. These ingredients result in chronic health consequences including lung cancer, addiction, central nervous system damage, and delay of proper adolescent brain development.

808novape researchers have found that:

- 26% of Hawai'i high school students are using e-cigarettes
- 94% online purchases of e-cigarettes have been successful amongst teens
- 60% of teens believe occasional use of e-cigarettes does little to of harm
- 70% of middle and high schoolers have recently seen e-cigarette advertising

Four of five young people who use tobacco start with a flavored product. Tobacco is one of the leading causes of death and should not be accessible to Hawai'i's youth. Please ban the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

Date: January 29, 2019

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Members of the University of Hawaii Student Health Advisory Council

Re: Strong Support for HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

Hrg: Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 9:30 am at Conference Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB276, which bans the sale of flavored tobacco products, effective 1/1/2020.

The Student Health Advisory Council has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of health policies and tobacco education on the UH System campuses. In 2015, the Student Health Advisory Council actively supported the passing of the law prohibiting the sale of all tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21. In 2018, the Student Health Advisory Committee also actively supported passing the law prohibiting the use of tobacco products on all 10 UH campuses and university-owned facilities. We remain deeply committed to the mission of reducing the use of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, among adolescents and young adults.

Electronic cigarettes are now the most commonly used form of tobacco among youth in the United States, surpassing conventional tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and hookahs. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, e-cigarette use among adolescents has increased considerably, growing an astounding 900% among high school students from 2011 to 2015. The sale of candy-like flavored tobacco products entices minors to start using these harmful products which may cause addiction and can damage the developing adolescent brain. The banning of flavored tobacco products is an imperative next step in tobacco control, if we are committed to protecting the health of adolescents and young adults in Hawaii.

On behalf of the Student Health Advisory Council, mahalo for your support for HB 276.



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En Young, MBA  
Sansei, Lanai

Date: January 29, 2019

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Health Committee

Re: Strong Support for HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco  
Products

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30am at Conference Room 329

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The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>1</sup> is in **Strong Support of HB276** which would end the sale of all menthol and flavored tobacco products in the state.

### **This measure will help to save lives.**

Tobacco use remains a serious threat to public health. Each year, Hawaii spends \$526 million in health care costs and \$141.7 million in Medicaid costs due to smoking. Tobacco products with menthol, sweet flavors, and colorful packaging are designed to attract teens and young adults. Menthol has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine, making menthol cigarettes a popular starter product. A report by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, issued in 2013, found that menthol cigarettes led to 1) increased smoking initiation among youth and young adults; 2) greater addiction; and 3) decreased success in quitting smoking. Candy flavors such as Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, and Cookie Monsta are designed to appeal to kids, and make nicotine go down easier. With 81% of youth starting with a flavored product<sup>ii</sup>, regulating the flavors designed to capture and addict new customers prioritizes the health and safety of our community over tobacco's special interests.

### **This measure helps to protect our keiki from a lifetime of addiction.**

Hawaii is experiencing a vaping epidemic among our young people. The State Legislature has worked hard to protect our residents from the harms caused by tobacco use, but the rapid growth of e-cigarette use is alarming. With 42% of all high school students and 27% of middle schoolers reporting ever having used an "electronic vaping product" in 2017, we have an urgent need to act. More troubling is that because of the historic declines in smoking, big tobacco has decided to focus on candy flavors and

nicotine delivery solutions. Tobacco giant Altria, maker of Marlboro, is investing in the popular vaping company Juul, which has 76% of the e-cigarette market share and is worth \$16 billion.

**Help us protect our keiki and vulnerable groups from deceptive marketing practices by the industry.**

The industry claims that they're not targeting kids, but their actions tell a different story. With 15,500 e-cigarette flavors and growing, these products are not being responsibly marketed. The industry selects colorful packaging and ads that appeal to taste and pop culture. Tobacco companies have a long history of using these same tactics to entice new and younger users and make them repeat customers. Addiction is the opposite of freedom. We're fighting to keep our kids free from the deadly addiction to these products. The health of Hawaii's keiki must be protected from the predatory marketing of tobacco companies.

**Hawai'i has an opportunity to act now and be the first state to end the sale of flavored tobacco.**

At least two states and over 180 localities have passed restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products, and over two dozen restrict the sale of menthol cigarettes. FDA's proposed plan aims to restrict the sale of flavored e-cigarettes in convenience stores and gas stations, however, it still allows e-cigarette products to stay on the market and online without review by the FDA until August 2022. Since recognizing flavors and vaping as a national public health concern, the FDA has only sent warning letters to 18 manufacturers since May 2018. We know rulemaking at the federal level is often a long process, which is why state-level action on menthol and other flavored products is needed now. E-cigarettes are not FDA-approved tobacco cessation products. We have yet to see any scientific evidence, beyond anecdotal data, that e-cigarettes have helped smokers to quit completely from tobacco use. The concern is that with the aggressive and deceptive marketing of these products, we are seeing other consequences: **1) people who have never smoked are using e-cigarettes, 2) children are picking them up as a path to smoking, and 3) smokers are using them to perpetuate their habit instead of to completely quit.**

Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products can help to keep kids from ever starting to smoke or vape, and can encourage those addicted to these products, to quit. We appreciate Hawaii's leadership in tobacco control and the legislature's actions to protect our young people from a deadly addiction. We respectfully urge the committee to **pass HB276, as is.**

Attachment: List of organizations and leaders supporting the #FlavorsHooksKidsHI campaign

Mahalo,



Trish La Chica, MPA  
Policy and Advocacy Director



As listed on

<https://flavorshookkidshi.org>

## HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

'Ohana Health Plan  
Adventist Health – Castle  
Akamai Recovery Maui  
American Academy of Pediatrics – Hawaii Chapter  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Pharmacist's Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blue Zones Project  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii  
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i  
Get Fit Kauai  
Hamakua Kohala Health Centers  
Hana Lima Physical Therapy  
Hawaii Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (HAHPERD)  
Hawaii COPD Coalition  
Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association  
Hawai'i Nurses' Association  
Hawaii Pacific Health  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute  
Hui Malama Ola Na Oiwi  
I Ola Lahui  
Kaho'omiki; Hawaii Council of Physical Activity and Nutrition  
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children  
Kauai Rural Health Association  
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition  
Lāna'i Community Health Center  
National Community Pharmacist Association – Hawaii Student Chapter  
Papa Ola Lōkahi  
Pediatric Therapies Hawaii  
Project Vision Hawai'i  
Tobacco Prevention Project, Daniel K. Inouye

College of Pharmacy  
West Hawaii Community Health Center

## YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)  
Baldwin HS Peer Education  
Hale 'Ōpio Kaua'i Inc.  
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)  
Hawaii Children's Action Network  
Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA)  
Hui Ola Pono (UH Public Health's Student Organization)  
Kauai Path Inc.  
Kiwanis Club of the Valley Island  
Konawaena HS Wellness Committee  
Moanalua HS Peer Education Program  
Pacific American Foundation  
Pono Hawaii Initiative  
The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park-Beach Cleanup Team  
Waiakea High School PTSA  
Waipahu Int. Youth for Safety Club  
We Are One Inc.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS & GOVERNMENT

Sen. Stanley Chang  
Rep. Stacelynn Eli  
Rep. Sharon Har  
Maui County Councilmember Kelly King  
Hawai'i County Councilmember Sue Lee Loy  
Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale  
Neighborhood Board #34  
Mililani/Waipio/Melemanu Neighborhood Board #25  
Waipahu Neighborhood Board #22  
County of Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney



## HEALTH & COMMUNITY LEADERS

Tina Alcain  
Frank R. Baum, M.D.  
Danielle Bergan  
Janet Berreman, M.D.  
Gregg Brenes, pastor  
Jeenna Canche  
Clifford Chang, MPH  
Valerie Chang, JD  
Jeffrey H. Chester, DO  
Carmen Cook, LMFT  
Joan Craft, RN  
Keawe Kaholokula, PhD  
Gary Hooser  
Carol R. Ignacio  
Colleen F Inouye, M.D.  
Mark Levin, J.D.  
Jasmin Kiernan, RN  
Bryan Mih, M.D.  
Michael Robinson, MBA, MA  
Janice Shishido  
Elizabeth K. Tam, M.D.  
Catherine Taschner, J.D.

Jill Tokuda  
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW  
Linda Weiner, M.D.  
Stacy Woodson  
Cassiopia Yamashita

## SCHOOLS

Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School  
Maui Preparatory Academy  
Mid Pacific Institute  
Sacred Hearts Academy  
Saint Louis Schools  
Waiakea High School

## BUSINESSES

Emma Whitney Photography  
Ganesha Body Piercing  
Heartlight Montessori Homeschool  
Home Remedies Interior Design  
Paia Tattoo Parlor  
The Root Cellar Studio Maui

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup> Ambrose BK, Day HR, Rostron B, et al. Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014. JAMA. 2015;314(17):1871-1873. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.13802

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:43:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Anderson	Black Lava Vape	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

The FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb recently released a statement on what they are doing to combat the epidemic that is teenage use of ENDS. It states that the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has contributed to a decline of combustible tobacco which is known to cause cancer. It also clearly states that it intends on limiting flavored cigarettes, and or flavored e-liquid, to age restricted stores or areas. There is also talk of restricting online sales. Most vape shops In Hawaii do not do online sales, so they understand why this would help limit access to teens ability to gain access to ENDS. The majority of teens getting their hands on these products are not coming from Vape Shops (Mom & Pop's/Brick & Mortar). They are coming from Internet sales from retailers that do not have a robust age verification in place, or from stores that have no age restriction. All vape shops have a strict age verification(s) in place. Following what the FDA is suggesting/recommending is a much better solution. If all flavors are banned, it will create an increase in adult use of combustible tobacco, which would be a step backwards. If adults no longer have access to the flavor(s) they used to stop using combustible tobacco, they will ultimately go back to the use of combustible tobacco. We agree that teenage use of ENDS products is unacceptable, and Vape Shops throughout Hawaii have, and are taking steps towards stopping this. Almost all shops in Hawaii have stopped selling JUUL. The Vape community, as a whole, has a high distain for JUUL. They have solely created such a negative tone for the Vape community that most vape shops around the country, just as in Hawaii, have stopped selling their products. JUUL has always been a "Gas Station" product. As a community we can help put a stop to teens use of ENDS, without punishing responsible adults that have successfully stopped combustible tobacco by using flavored e-liquids. Just as with flavored alcohol, which there is no shortage of, teens should not be easily able to get their hands on any product deemed to be for adult use. If we work together, we can stop, and prevent this from happening without it being at the expense of responsible adults that have successfully quit smoking by using flavored e-liquid(s). Let's work together as a community, not against each other. We should all be able to work together. I can guarantee that vape shops don't want teenagers vaping more than anyone. The Vape community has always had one sole purpose. That's to get adults off combustible, and non-combustible (Chewing Tobacco) tobacco products. And it has done so with greater success than any other cessation device. The Vape community is ready to work closely with all parties to put an end to teenage use of ENDS.

Much Mahalos,

Sean Anderson

**LATE**

Wednesday 30, 2019

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

From: Laura Nevitt, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 276— Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, January 329, 2018, 9:30 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 276, which bans the sale of flavored tobacco products. Effective 1/1/2020.**

Tobacco use remains a serious threat to public health. Each year, Hawaii spends \$526 million in health care costs and \$141.7 million in Medicaid costs due to smoking. Tobacco products with menthol, sweet flavors, and colorful packaging are designed to attract teens and young adults. With 81% of youth starting with a flavored product, regulating the flavors designed to capture and addict new customers prioritizes the health and safety of our community over tobacco's special interests.

This measure helps to protect our keiki from a lifetime of addiction. Hawaii is experiencing a vaping epidemic among our young people. The State Legislature has worked hard to protect our residents from the harms caused by tobacco use, but the rapid growth of e-cigarette use is alarming. With 42% of all high school students and 27% of middle schoolers reporting ever having used an "electronic vaping product" in 2017.

Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products can help to keep kids from ever starting to smoke or vape, and can encourage those addicted to these products, to quit. We appreciate Hawaii's leadership in tobacco control and the legislature's actions to protect our young people from a deadly addiction.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:59:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair and members,

A resounding yes to this measure. High School students came to NB25 this month and gave a concise and poignant brief on these dangerous drugs aimed at children. Terrible! Strong support.

Ann S. Freed

Mililani, HI 96789

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:28:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:48:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johnathon G. Myers	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

There have been numerous peer-reviewed studies that Electronic Smoking Devices and e-juices are yielding the highest results in the form of tobacco and smoking cessation for adults, currently. This proposed Bill is Government overreach--continue to enforce the laws already in place at the Federal and State level for prohibiting sale to minors. This is a legal adult product that is already being regulated at the Federal level by the FDA. If minors under 21 are already finding a way to acquire these products online or out of state, then this proposed Bill will do nothing to deter youth from still acquiring, since no other state or country is proposing this Bill. The solution is enforcement of existing State and Federal laws to prevent minors under 21 from purchasing; not this proposed Bill—vehemently OPPOSE!!!

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:27:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

There is no single tobacco flavor. Tobacco uses multiple (6 or more) unique flavors to make a Tobacco "LIKE" flavor. By banning all flavors you are also banning tobacco.

Adults use flavors for quitting traditional cigarettes.

Adults do NOT WANT KIDS USING THESE PRODUCTS.

I own a store and ID every single person that comes in to purchase. If we get a group of people coming in. Every single person in the group is checked. If anyone under 21 is in the group we deny the sale. Because we believe in protecting this industry.

By allowing the county (Honolulu) which is basically the majority of the state, to make laws for this. Is absurd. You are taking away our right to due process so that you can get away with passing laws.

Honolulu County has 988,650 people as of 2017 and the state has 1.428 million. When Oahu has almost 70% of the state population. You are basically controlling state affairs at that time. You need to stop following in Californias practices.

Vaping has lead to a heavy decline in normal smoking rates. Banning flavors will not only force a HEAVY black market (you guys are great with stopping drugs and illegal fireworks) it will also force people back to traditional cigarettes. Flavor bans in the bay area have black market cigarettes selling for \$20 a pack on the streets.

But hey, make weed legal, tax that. And get the drug dealers to start selling cigarettes.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:58:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:30:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill HB276. As i am a former smoker of over 12 years. I stopped smokinng traditional cigarettes with vaping. I as an adult have the right to choose a healthier lifestyle. Vaping is just that. I switched to vaping because of the multitude of flavors available. I would rather smell like a strawberry cereal than a nasty old cigarrete any day. I have not smoked a cigarette for over 12 years now. I can taste my food , i can breath easier , i dont smell like an ashtray all day. This flavor ban will destroy an industry that saves lives. As i get it flavors may attract underage teens to try it, though it was the same as cigarettes. Many young people smoke and continue to smoke by any means neccessary. We need to come together and figure out a way to make a difference and somehow curb the underage from getting their hands on anything illegal for them to do. Dont blame an industry that has had such a positive influence on many , many folks.

Much mahalos for your time.

**Flavor Ban**  
**HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products**  
**Position: Strong Support**

As a public health advocate, I cannot agree more with the Youth Council on this subject of banning flavored tobacco/nicotine products.

We, as the responsible adults in our “family” that is the State of Hawaii, must stand up for our children and young people. The industry says it wants to keep tobacco out of the hands of our children, but they don’t want to do anything about it. The surest proof that candy-flavored tobacco is infiltrating our schools is from the DOE. With 168,000 young people in our schools and with 42% of all high school students and 27% of middle schoolers reporting ever having used an “electronic vaping product” in 2017, we have an urgent need to act. All our young people deserve protection from a lifetime of addiction.

In addition, the industry claims they’re not targeting our youth, but their actions tell a different story. With 15,500 flavors and growing, these products are not being responsibly marketed. Candy flavors such as Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, and Cookie Monsta are designed to appeal to our children, and make nicotine go down easier. The packaging and ads are attractive, and the products smell and taste good. All of these help to hook our youth and make them repeat customers. Addiction is the opposite of freedom. We’re fighting to keep our children free from the deadly addiction to these products. The health of Hawaii’s keiki must be protected from the predatory marketing of tobacco companies.

Included in the flavor ban would be menthol which has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine, making menthol cigarettes another popular starter product. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the African American community. In Hawaii, 78% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander smokers use menthol cigarettes. In the Philippines, market share of menthol cigarettes was 55%. The consequences of this are while nicotine and tobacco addiction are deadly for everyone, Native Hawaiians and Filipinos die at higher rates of lung cancer than other groups.

Although some adults claim ESDs have helped them to “quit”, ESDs are not FDA-approved tobacco cessation products. We have yet to see any scientific evidence, beyond anecdotal data, that e-cigarettes have helped smokers to quit completely from tobacco use. The issue is with the aggressive and deceptive marketing of these products, we’re seeing other things happening: 1) people who have never smoked are using e-cigarettes, 2) children are picking them up as a path to smoking, and 3) smokers are using them to perpetuate their habit instead of to completely quit. Even more troubling is because of the historic declines in smoking, big tobacco has decided to focus on candy flavors and nicotine delivery solutions. Tobacco giant Altria, maker of Marlboro, is investing in the popular vaping company Juul, which has 76% of the e-cigarette market share and is worth \$16 billion.

If Hawaii’s tobacco stores are truly supportive of keeping the community healthy, then they must be fine offering products for sale other than cotton candy or gummy worm-flavored e-juice. Our residents are proud to support local, but not when these products directly contribute to the youth vaping epidemic. If we don’t remove candy flavors, the cost to our kids will be a lifetime of addiction to tobacco.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:58:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Puna Hayashida I here by oppose to this bill as to ban all flavored e cigarettes. I feel as an individual it is unfair to the community due to the reason being these flavored e liquids play a big part in helping ones health due to the fact there is no records of individuals getting hurt or having any medical problems. I myself have been smoking cigarettes for around 7 years. E cigarettes have gotten me off the the harsh and unhealthy traditional cigarettes because of these flavors we have available. It has produced a great amount of positivity in my life knowing I'm not getting the tar and carbon monoxide and many other chemicals placed in traditional cigarettes. Many of these flavors are locally based and are safer then your traditional cigarettes. I myself have felt the positive affects of vaping, I don't smell like a ash tray anymore and I can breath much easier due to the fact I'm not inhaling these harmful chemicals. Not just myself but the community that is of age of purchasing any ESD will be greatly affected by this. Please look at the actual research behind vaping and how it has helped each and every person who finally had a positive outcome from vaping in my many years in this industry I have not come across someone who stopped smoking traditional cigarettes cane to vaping and said that this is much more harmful then lighting an actual cigarette. There is more deaths from flavored alcohol then there will ever be from flavored E liquid. Banning this in the state of Hawaii will affect more people then the state thinks. Mahalo for your time.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:59:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol R. Ignacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha honorable legislators,

Ecigarettes are extremely dangerous especially to our youth who see vaping, etc. legal and ok. Far from the truth.

Please support this bill. We need to do this now before the epidemic grows.

Thank you very much.

Carol R. Ignacio

Hawaii Island, District 1

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:07:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Alana-Duones	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Nathan Alana-Diones. I been smoking cigarettes for 15 years and vaping help me quite smoking. Flavor is a big part of vaping. If this bill going through i my self will be out of work and not putting food on the table for my family a roof over my family Head. Vaping has a lot of good things about it. I help a lot of people who been smoking and doing drug get off of it with vaping flavor juices. I meet a lot of new people and made a lot of new friends doing this.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:21:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

My name is Kelson Furtado. I am 22 years old. I was an avid cigarette smoker from the time I was 13 years old. Only when I discovered fruit flavored E-liquids it made it much easier for me to quit. I've tried many other things before such as nicotine patches and nicotine gum. But to no avail. This bill and all others like it could very well be detrimental to the successes that I had procured when I quit cigarettes. It isn't at fault of the vaping industry nor vape shops. None of the products are in no way, shape or form marketed to the youth. It is meant for those who want a life rid of the harmful effects of tobacco and all the nasty by products of it. More teens die at the clutches of alcohol. Which is also not marketed to kids. So why should the vaping industry of Hawaii take such a hit as this. Vaping fruit flavored E-liquids helped me quit a disgusting habit. Just like how it has helped countless citizens, looking for a better quality of life.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:30:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shani Gacayan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB276 to end the sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol, for the health of our keiki and our people of Hawaii.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:38:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiffany L. Alana-Diones	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Tiffany Alana-Diones.

I would like to "OPPOSE BILL 276" because if the state ban flavored tobacco products I will goback smoking cigarettes. I started vaping about 2 years now, and I only vape one flavorand that helped me "QUIT" smokinng 2PKS A DAY. If you think that by Banning Flavors will be the solution of it not getting inot our young kids "TRY STARTING WITH EDUCATING ADULTS, THE PUBLIC , AND DOE ABOUT VAPING!!!" If more people was more educated about it everyone will understand. Think how is the kids getting them parents that allow their kids to do it. Then think when you was a kid you did things that you are not proud of doing but someone else helped you out what you got into. " That is the same thing for me, I got myself to smoke cigarettes then someone educated me about vavping that is how i stop smoking cigarettes an " I love vaping!!!!!" So with all that being said "I OPPOSE THIS BILL 276"

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:42:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB276. We as adults over 21 should have the right to choose our own flavors on anything we decide. Why should adults who have no connection with underage persons be reprimanded for the actions of adults or parents who supply underage persons? I smoked cigarettes for 7 years and I was smoking about 2-3 packs a day which contained no menthol, I quit smoking cigarettes using a vapor product that did have flavor and haven't smoked a cigarette in 5 years. If you take this away from the community you are harming our future generations health. I am over 21 and I should have a right to choose my flavor.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:55:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My Name is Daniel. My wife smoked cigarettes for more than fifteen years. She would constantly get sick. Would get winded easily. She tried quitting many times with no success. After trying vaping she was able to quit over night. She has been smoke free for over a year and a half now with out the urge to return. Her health has dramatically improved and she can run and play with our children. With out flavored Eliquids this all would not be possible and with out them she would most likely got back to traditional cigarettes. I highly oppose HB276 and the other Flavor ban bills coming up.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:51:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I wanted to reach out to you in regards to HB276. My name is Mark Remobles, I'm from the Big Island of Hawaii and I've been avid electronic cigarette user for roughly about 8 yrs now and still going strong. I strongly believe the potential for vaping products/flavors to save the lives of the countless amount of people whom fell victim to the addictions of traditional tobacco.

At one point of my life, I was a victim too.

Growing up, I was surrounded by/exposed to traditional tobacco use to be something of the norm among Adults. I was not aware there was a high probability most of them were addicted. That was until I got older and had my own personal experience with it.

I am a firm believe in "Mind over Matter" But with each puff I took, I was digging myself an even bigger hole without realizing it. Eventually, I found myself not being able to function on a daily basis. It was as if my life were dependent on it. Cigarettes were the first thought in the morning and the last thought at night.

I've sacrificed crucial lunch breaks to my addiction, it became my sustenance. I could feel my health deteriorating day by day. I could no longer breathe the same, taste food the same, disgusted with myself every time I looked into a mirror.

Then one day... I finally received my wake-up call. I had smoked so much that I developed severe bronchitis. I kept coughing so hard and repeatedly in succession that I tore muscles in my back. All the while missing work and lying in bed helpless. Still, despite my current state... Itching for a cigarette.

I saw the problem and immediately I had to address it. I've tried going "Cold-Turkey" to no avail. Nicotine patches left rashes, scars, and bruises on my body. Nicotine gum only made me crave the genuine article even more.

This downward spiral continued on till a stranger stepped in and recommended electronic cigarettes to me. He shared his addiction stories as well as his personal endeavors with me. Constantly, saying how grateful and in debt he was to this new technology for saving his life. I was pessimistic about it at first but I was willing to give it one last shot before admitting defeat.

Well, I can tell you today.. I am no longer a victim of tradition tobacco. All my senses that were once lost, have since improved. I am no longer disgusted when I look into a mirror, and I have not craved a single cigarette since and have no intention of ever going back.

Electronic Cigarettes/Flavors saved my life, and has the potential to save the lives of many who are still struggling with tobacco addiction. I humbly urge you to not support this bill. Please do not condemn us from these products. This bill will not only crumble the industry as a whole but take away any chance of hope from people who need it the most...

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:58:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Flavored tobacco products gave me the support I needed to quit smoking cigarettes which has drastically improved not only my own health, but the health of others around me as well. Banning the flavors would be a reason for me to return to smoking.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:04:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mealani Rahmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support our youth by helping to end the vaping epidemic by voting in support of HB276. As a tobacco treatment specialist, I see first hand how many of our keiki get started on addiction with flavors attached to nicotine. You have an ability to put an end to this. Please support HB276.

Mahalo,

Mealani Rahmer, ND

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:07:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

I am not a consumer of flavored e-liquids, however I oppose this bill. There are so many products that use flavorings as part of their marketing: cough syrups, coffee creamers, liquid hand soap, the list goes on. I don't think the State should start deciding what should be flavored or not, or which flavors are appropriate and which are not.

If you wish to prevent minors from using tobacco products, then invest in education.



To whom it may concern,

I oppose bill HB276, as an adult and an American citizen, I feel that I have the right to have options and variety as a consumer. By banning flavor tobacco or e-liquids, you're limited the choices we have, especially for flavor e-liquids which helps thousands if not millions of ex-smokers stay off traditional and dangerous cigarettes. This will also cause many small mom and pop e-cigarette shops to close and move to the mainland for business opportunities and many Hawaii residents without jobs.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:24:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am an adult. I have the right to vape what flavors I want to wheather it is strawberry,watermelon,menthol ext. I was smoking cigarettes for 15yrs . When I was smoking cigarettes I couldn't taste my food and the cigarette smell was stuck to my clothes. Now since I been vaping flavors I could taste what I was eating and there was no smell stuck on my clothes. I can't stand the smell of cigarettes. I oppose this flavored ban.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:26:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Aloha, my name is Devan Ferreira and the past four years I've been smoking cigarettes. Trying to quit various times on my own was super hard. However with vaping and being able to choose the flavor of my liking I was able to quit the harsh dangers of cigarettes. Vaping has not only improved the health of people around me but mines as well by being able to keep up with the football kids that I coach. With that being said I strongly oppose bill HB 276.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:39:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Austin T Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this Bill for multiple reasons. The first being it is completely unfair to those above the age of 21 who partake in a recreational activity legally. I understand the bill is trying to mitigate vaping in schools, but it is not the vaping industry's fault, it is the fault of the individual. Teens will always find a way to rebel, whether it be smoking, drinking, vaping or even chewing tobacco. Interestingly enough all of the previously mentioned activities all have different flavors which leads to my second point. Smoking, for example, has different swisher sweet flavors, menthol, black and mild etc. Alcohol, which is the most dangerous of all of these, also has the most flavors, yet I don't see anyone banning the sale of flavored vodka anytime soon. My final and equally important point is it will cause a rise in the use of traditional smoking again. Vaping is the largest outlet helping people quit smoking. A study done in the UK showed the vaping is 95% less harmful than traditional smoking and by removing it, it would force the people who switched from smoking to vaping to switch back to get their "fix." Therefore, it would actually increase health related risks from tobacco products instead of mitigate them.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:45:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please ban tobacco flavored products.

C.Hartz

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 12:05:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Taking away flavors for vaping will make people lose jobs and businesses. All vape shops enforce the 21 and up and do not sell to those underaged. Vaping has gotten people to quit smoking cigarettes as well as gotten people off of very harmful drugs. I myself have quit smoking cigarettes for 5 years now thanks to vaping and the flavors that are provided. Do not ban flavors for those wishing to actually go to a healthier alternative to smoking cigarettes and do not assist with closing businesses that support this healthy alternative

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:02:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT A BAN ON FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS. Stop poisoning our keiki for toxic profit. Nicotine in any form is as addictive as heroine and cocaine combined.

Joseph Kohn MD [www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:15:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'll keep this short and simple, I was a pack-a-day smoker for over 10 years and I tried everything to quit including gum, patches, inhaler, RX cessation aides and cold turkey. Every time I tried to quit I was smoking again within a few months. Nothing worked for me.

Once I tried an e-cigarette I quit smoking that same week and have not smoked any tobacco at all for over 6 years. The biggest factor in my decision to quit smoking was flavored eliquids. Why smell and taste tobacco smoke when you can smell and taste blueberry lemonade or cinnamon buns! I am a 34 year old male and I love candy, fruit and bakery flavored eliquids. Not only do I enjoy these flavors but I can honestly say they were absolutely instrumental in my quitting smoking. If HB276 passes not only will it be a huge detriment to the health of Hawaii, it will take away the option to choose something other than tobacco and it will kill hundreds of local businesses and put Hawaii residents in unemployment lines.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:55:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Dau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this HB276. The tobacco industry wants to keep tobacco out of the hands of kids, then this is the way to do it. If mom and pop stores are concerned about their bottom line (making money) then do so by other means, and not by the threat of selling a product that could threaten the health of our community. These flavored products are known to directly target unsuspecting kids to a possible life-long addiction that could lead to serious health issues.

Thank you

Lisa Dau, RN

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:09:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:14:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Flavors are good because it helps adults in wanting to try. Example a smoker sees a flavor available that he finds interesting could be his favorite cereal he trys it and ends up quitting smoking cigarettes and vapes now. My uncle use to smoke cigarettes and now he vapes. He likes his candy flavors. I myself smoked cigarettes wasn't for too long but that's because of vaping being able to try many flavors and have options. And another positive is not smelling like an ash tray when getting back to work from break or going away from a family party cause I needed to light a cigarette. Hope these were good examples to keep flavors for vaping and hopefully you can see where we as former smokers come from and want.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:55:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:22:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mary santa maria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Esteemed Representatives,

I stongly support HB 276. It is time to put a stop to the blantant manipulation of children which leads to addiction to nicotin. The banning of flavored tobacco products, including in Electronic Smoking Devices, will go a long way to achieve this goal. Please pass this Bill, and continue to support our youth.

Sincerely,

Mary Santa Maria, Public Health Educator

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:34:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I used to smoke cigarettes for two years and realized that smoking cigarettes was not a healthy activity. I decided to quit smoking cigarettes but nothing helped (i.e nicotine patches and nicotine gum) but then I found vaping and fruit and menthol flavored e-liquid was the thing that assisted me with quitting cigarettes and staying away from cigarettes.

thank you

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:40:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Why would legislation ban Flavored Tobacco Products? It clearly has no tobacco in it. The only thing tobacco related in the liquid or as we vapers call it, e-juice is Nicotine. Flavored e-juice shouldn't be considered as a tobacco product because there is no tobacco. Here are the ingredients for the E-juice: Vegetable Glycerin, Propylene Glycol, Natural & Artificial Flavoring and Nicotine. Now tell me, where does it say tobacco flavoring? Here's a good question to think about, would you rather have people smoking cigarettes and have major problems and cancer or would you rather have people vaping and living a healthy life? Here's my story, before I started vaping, I use to smoke cigarettes everyday. I had difficulty breathing while smoking cigarettes. When my husband introduced me to vaoing, I noticed that I didn't have difficulty breathing. I noticed my breathing problems were gone . Feels like I can breathe again. So, think about it, would you all rather have people smoking cigarettes and develop lung problems, heart problems, etc... if vaping/flavored tobacco juices were banned? Honestly, I prefer vaping flavored juices rather than having a nasty cigarette taste in my miuth.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:02:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:08:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill would be detrimental to adults who are of legal age to purchase vaping products and who are quitting or trying to quit combustible tobacco products, i have found it to be the effecient way to quit using combustible tobacco/ non combustible (chewing tobacco) products.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:32:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The ban on flavored e-juice/e-liquid is unneeded and unwanted, the vaping industry is not trying to target the youth. Flavored products are made for adults of a legal age that wish to stop smoking REAL tobacco products, if this bill goes through it will hurt more people then do good. Flavored liquid helps us so we dont taste ash in our mouths and dont smell like ashtrays. It will hurt business, employees and people trying to live a healthy life away from tobacco. I was a smoker before i found vaping. I would smoke 2 packs a day, i couldn't breathe well or do physical activity. After i stopped smoking and found vaping, i could breathe normally and chase my son without getting winded. If you people truly care about our health you will not let this bill be passed. Instead of punishing the ones trying to be healthy, punishment should be given to those who sell to the youth illegally. You have to show ID and be an adult to buy any product at a vaping shop.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:37:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I was able to quit smoking cigarettes using pineapple flavored e juice.

Date: January 29, 2019

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support of HB276**, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM in Capitol Room 329

Aloha House Committee on Health,

I am writing in **strong support of HB276**, which bans the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is in the midst of a youth vaping epidemic. Studies show that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored vape product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It is critical to include menthol in the tobacco flavor ban. Menthol is commonly found in products that start tobacco use, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, which has led to tobacco-related health disparities.

The vast majority of vape products, and the vape products most commonly used by youth, contain the highly addictive chemical, nicotine. Thanks to Hawai'i's leadership in tobacco prevention, cigarette smoking among our youth is at an all-time low. But, candy flavored vape products are now introducing large numbers of our kids to nicotine who would otherwise not be exposed. And, research shows that nearly 80% of youth who vape would never have started if flavored products were unavailable.

We need to ban flavored tobacco products to prevent a new generation of youth from becoming addicted to nicotine.

I **strongly support HB276** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Kea'au, HI

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:55:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

i smoked for 9 years and never could quit untill i found fruit flavored vape its the only thing that keeps me for the evil that is smoking

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:10:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I quit smoking cigarettes that contain harmful chemicals and could lead to tar in my lungs. My much older father also quit smoking cigarettes and chewing tobacco and using vape as a much better and safer alternative. I understand that you are trying to prevent the youth from vaping but your also taking away from the older community trying to find safer alternatives. Tobacco has been found to cause lung cancer which is why many are straying away from that and switching to vape to get their nicotine. I'm opposing to this ban because I wholeheartedly believe vaping is a smarter alternative. I hear much more youth talking about vaping rather than smoking cannabis and other drugs. It's become such a mainstream that many are deciding to vape as opposed to smoking. Please do consider this while continuing with this ban.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:11:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Completely unfair bill.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:29:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kyli kaleo	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hello, My name is Kyli Kaleo and I'm a senior at Waiakea High School on the Big island. I am testifying in support of HB276 because of the affect it has been taking on my friends and other teens around me. Never did I think when I was in intermediate that all my friends would be smoking or doing drugs in highschool. Now, I can't even remember a time that I don't see them vaping or smoking something. Over half of the kids at my school own a vaping device. Everyday I see kids vaping in class but the one thing that all these kids have in common is that their all smoking flavored tobacco products. They may have different devices and different levels of nicotine but they are all smoking a flavored tobacco product. I am part of the youth council as well and I have been doing presentations to different adult groups and they don't even know that this epidemic is going on. They don't know that our percentages are 700 above the national average. We need to stop this epidemic from spreading and it starts with this bill. Banning tobacco flavored products will help and prevent teens from vaping or even trying it. I need my friends to stop vaping because we don't know the long term effects about what this drug could do to them in 20 years. Please help us in the banning of tobacco flavored products and help us protect our lungs.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:07:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

I strongly support HB 276 bill in its entirety. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:40:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I oppose for HB276 flavor is everything to me and I cant believe that somthing like this could even pass !! I really dont understand on why this is even trying to get passed I support all vape shops and this is going to destroy there business and everything they worked, I've been coming to Vapekings for over 3 years now!! This is where I enjoy coming to after work and having the great quality and multiple different flavors. 21 is old enough I've done my time and this is what I enjoy vaping it's a lifestyle and it's my choice please dont take away the one thing I enjoy doing all day!

Sincerely, Mr. Adcock

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:22:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I strongly support this bill. These flavored tobacco products are targeting our youth. All the progress that has been made in the past to decrease youth smoking is quickly vanishing. We will be looking at another generation of smokers in the near future. The future healthcare costs for this will effect every Hawaii taxpayer.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:35:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brittany Balonzo-Tomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill mainly because vaping has helped my family. My family members all smoked cigarettes before I was even born. I am twenty one years old now. I remember when the law allowed 18 year olds to buy tobacco products and vaping products. I got to enjoy that freedom for a few months before the new law set in where you have to be 21 years old. I just turned 21 years old in 2018, now this bill is proposing to completely rid of vape products and not the true issue; tobacco products. I won't have that freedom of healthier smoking options. I would have to either quit entirely or smoke cigarettes right? This bill is aiming just for more cigarette use, that is what I obtained from reading and determining its goal.

My mother, her sisters, my grandmother all used to smoke cigarettes. One of my family members is diagnosed with COPD and Emphazima. She turned to e-cigarettes and vape to quit smoking cigarettes. Now she breathes better and has no desire for cigarettes because of the tobacco use on her lungs. I only started vaping because i enjoyed the art of it. When I turned 18 I was thrilled to try it out and I enjoyed it as a way to ease my mind from work when I would go on break. I got my family memebers into it and they agree with me that vape is way better than tobacco, doesn't hurt your lungs, doesn't smell bad, and they mainly do it for the nicotine.

Nicotine I see it like coffee, in a sense that it doesn't harm you like cigarettes, but having too much of it will poison you. Since vape came out I have seen different ways to vape safely and since my family has been doing it for so long, they look helthier than they did with cigarettes. The yellow teeth and bad breath is long gone for them now, and I am happy they have a healthier alternative for smoking. However, to ban it will lead most buyers to cigarettes and what is available. With that in mind, kids will definitely turn to cigarettes we know the reason cigarette use went down and vaping went up. There are less cigarette polltuion in schools and in my backyard! I remember going to my elementary school and there would be so many butts on the ground, last time I went there, there was none in sight.

I do agree that students should not be vaping. I thought school was a not olerance zone? What are the students' superiors doing to enforce the rules? Evidently, just taking

away the device from the child is saying "you can't have it" compared to meeting up with their parents, talking to them about the problem and trying to find solutions to get the kid to stop smoking and vaping because it is a problem that will affect them in the long term. I do believe that once someone is 21 that they should have access to these products because they are considered an adult that can make their own choices.

Smoke problems are affecting the medical industry, I believe, is the fact that everyone who smoked cigarettes when they were young are now being truly affected by it, I do not think the percentages include only health issues vaping causes, but the health issues cigarettes have on people. I know my vape has ten times less chemicals than cigarettes. Cigarettes contain a few million different chemicals, we know through meth heads that is not a good thing to be smoking. Nicotine, vegetable glycerin, and flavorings.

I love having different flavors to vape because nobody goes to the candy store to pick only out of three types of candy, we want variety. Literally that is singling out the entire vaping community. Why not just ban cigarettes and enforce stricter laws on selling to minors and minor usage? Like a minor will have to do community service or some kind of feasible punishment that will deteriorate them from vaping in school?



January 29, 2019

To: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health

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

**RE: HB 276 – oppose.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes® is the largest retailer & wholesaler of vapor products and vaping accessories in the State of Hawaii. We currently own and operate 15 locations statewide and employ over 110 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 HB 276 for the following:

- Vapor products and e-liquids contain NO tobacco, often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke when vaporized; yet **HB 276 deceptively refers to vapor products as “Electronic Smoking Devices” to mislead the public and creates a false perception of the nature of these products.** This misclassification establishes the idea that vapor products are the same as tobacco products and thus, should be viewed, controlled, and perceived the same way as traditional tobacco products. This is a complete disregard of the fact that vapor products are fundamentally different from tobacco products in every way.
- **HB 276 would decimate the Hawaiian vapor industry by banning the sale of all electronic cigarette liquids and cartridges. Every electronic cigarette available on the worldwide market is “flavored.” Because they do not contain tobacco, electronic cigarettes have no “natural tobacco” taste, or any taste for that matter, without the addition of flavorings. Even electronic cigarettes advertised as coming in “tobacco flavor” are actually just the result of the blending of several different flavorings such as vanilla, caramel and nut flavors in an attempt to mimic the flavor of tobacco. To use the language of the proposed statute, every electronic cigarette imparts to the user a “distinguishable or distinctive” aroma, or taste other than tobacco. As a result, HB 276 will act as a de facto ban of the manufacture and sale of all electronic cigarettes.**
- Even if HB 276 permitted the sale of electronic cigarettes flavored to taste like tobacco, its enactment would still ban the manufacture and sale of the vast majority of our products. **This bill would present more than just a competitive disadvantage for local suppliers**



**and retailers. It would be a death knell for vapor industry in Hawaii.** Local consumers will either flavor liquids themselves or purchase from out of state, causing a loss of jobs and tax revenues for the state. Similarly, we will be forced to close our stores and move all or most of our business and operations to the mainland, taking with us jobs and tax revenue that has grown every year since our founding.

- Enactment of HB 276 will deal a similar fate to our competitors in the electronic cigarette industry. Between them these businesses have likely created 1000 jobs in Hawaii. All or more of these jobs will be lost as a result of this legislation. Additionally, convenience stores and other businesses that sell vapor products will feel the impact of consumers purchasing products from the mainland.
- The baseless claims that electronic cigarettes flavors are made to attract children must be weighed against the significant evidence that electronic cigarette flavors are very popular with adult users.<sup>1</sup> The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Research recently published the most expansive survey performed on the subject. We urge you to read the full text of this study, which we have attached to our testimony. Below are some highlights:
  - Researchers conducted an Internet survey of over 4,500 adult electronic cigarette consumers. The participants' average age was 40 years old. The vast majority (90%) of those surveyed were ex-smokers, with the average respondent having been cigarette-free for approximately one year.
  - Among the survey respondents, the most commonly used flavors were fruits, followed by sweets and tobacco.
  - Those electronic cigarette users who were still smoking ("dual users") were actually more likely to use tobacco flavors than those vapers who had quit smoking.
  - On a scale of 1-5, the average score given by the respondents for the importance of flavor variability in reducing or quitting smoking was 4 ("very important").
  - **Almost 50% of the respondents answered that a lack of flavor availability would increase their cravings for tobacco cigarettes and would decrease their chances of remaining abstinent from smoking.**
    - We have attached several articles that examine the truths about youth usage of electronic cigarettes. The articles indicate that the evidence that almost all youth who experiment with electronic cigarettes do not go on to become regular tobacco users. These experimentation rates pale in comparison to the rates of youth usage of alcohol, marijuana and tobacco products.
- **The use of flavorings in electronic cigarette liquids is one of the driving factors in helping prevent adult former smokers who switch to e-cigarettes from going back to traditional cigarettes.** Most users report that after switching to electronic cigarettes and experiencing the pleasant tastes one can enjoy with an electronic cigarette, they no longer find the taste of traditional tobacco cigarettes appealing.
- **Enactment of this bill will actually benefit Big Tobacco by eliminating their competition.** Analysts credit electronic cigarettes, not government intervention, nor traditional nicotine replacement therapy products, with causing cigarette sales to experience larger than forecasted declines in the U.S. and Europe. Regardless of the good intentions



involved, every step taken to reduce adult access to electronic cigarettes is really a step towards protecting cigarette markets.

- HB 276 exempts traditional Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products that contain nicotine even though electronic cigarettes have been shown to be a much more effective tool for helping people quit smoking and have been demonstrated to have a similar risk profile as NRT's.
  - <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/add.12623/abstract>
  - [http://m.circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/Suppl\\_2/A14945.short](http://m.circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/Suppl_2/A14945.short)
- **If flavors are not important in helping adult smokers switch from, or quit traditional cigarettes, why is GlaxoSmithKline's nicotine gum exempt from this bill and sold in flavors?**



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

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



Article

## Impact of Flavour Variability on Electronic Cigarette Use Experience: An Internet Survey

Konstantinos E. Farsalinos <sup>1,\*</sup>, Giorgio Romagna <sup>2</sup>, Dimitris Tsiapas <sup>1</sup>, Stamatis Kyrzopoulos <sup>1</sup>, Alketa Spyrou <sup>1</sup> and Vassilis Voudris <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Onassis Cardiac Surgery Center, Sygrou 356, Kallithea 17674, Greece; E-Mails: dtsiapas@hotmail.com (D.T.); stkyrz@gmail.com (S.K.); aspirou@gmail.com (A.S.); vvoudris@otenet.gr (V.V.)

<sup>2</sup> ABICH S.r.l, Biological and Chemical Toxicology Research Laboratory, Via 42 Martiri, 213/B-28924 Verbania (VB), Italy; E-Mail: giorgio.romagna@gmail.com

\* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: kfarsalinos@gmail.com; Tel.: +306-977-454-837; Fax: +302-109-493-373.

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**Abstract:** *Background:* A major characteristic of the electronic cigarette (EC) market is the availability of a large number of different flavours. This has been criticised by the public health authorities, some of whom believe that diverse flavours will attract young users and that ECs are a gateway to smoking. At the same time, several reports in the news media mention that the main purpose of flavour marketing is to attract youngsters. The importance of flavourings and their patterns of use by EC consumers have not been adequately evaluated, therefore, the purpose of this survey was to examine and understand the impact of flavourings in the EC experience of dedicated users. *Methods:* A questionnaire was prepared and uploaded in an online survey tool. EC users were asked to participate irrespective of their current smoking status. Participants were divided according to their smoking status at the time of participation in two subgroups: former smokers and current smokers. *Results:* In total, 4,618 participants were included in the analysis, with 4,515 reporting current smoking status. The vast majority (91.1%) were former smokers, while current smokers had reduced smoking consumption from 20 to 4 cigarettes per day. Both subgroups had a median smoking history of 22 years and had been using ECs for 12 months. On average they were using three different types of liquid flavours on a regular basis, with former smokers switching between flavours more

frequently compared to current smokers; 69.2% of the former subgroup reported doing so on a daily basis or within the day. Fruit flavours were more popular at the time of participation, while tobacco flavours were more popular at initiation of EC use. On a scale from 1 (not at all important) to 5 (extremely important) participants answered that variability of flavours was “very important” (score = 4) in their effort to reduce or quit smoking. The majority reported that restricting variability will make ECs less enjoyable and more boring, while 48.5% mentioned that it would increase craving for cigarettes and 39.7% said that it would have been less likely for them to reduce or quit smoking. The number of flavours used was independently associated with smoking cessation. *Conclusions:* The results of this survey of dedicated users indicate that flavours are marketed in order to satisfy vapers’ demand. They appear to contribute to both perceived pleasure and the effort to reduce cigarette consumption or quit smoking. Due to the fact that adoption of ECs by youngsters is currently minimal, it seems that implementing regulatory restrictions to flavours could cause harm to current vapers while no public health benefits would be observed in youngsters. Therefore, flavours variability should be maintained; any potential future risk for youngsters being attracted to ECs can be sufficiently minimized by strictly prohibiting EC sales in this population group.

**Keywords:** electronic cigarette; flavours; smoking; tobacco; nicotine; smoking cessation; public health

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## 1. Introduction

Cigarette smoking is considered the single most preventable cause of disease, affecting several systems in the human body and causing premature death [1]. The World Health Organisation predicts more than 1 billion deaths within the 21st century related to tobacco cigarettes [2]. Although there is overwhelming evidence for the benefits of smoking cessation [3], it is a very difficult addiction to break. Currently available nicotine replacement therapy have low long-term success rate, which may be attributed solely to psychological support [4], while oral medications are more effective [5] but are hindered by reports of adverse neuropsychiatric effects [6]. In this context, the tobacco harm reduction strategy has been developed, with a goal of providing nicotine through alternative methods in order to reduce the amount of harmful substances obtained by the user [7].

Electronic cigarettes (ECs) have been marketed in recent years as alternative to smoking products. They consist mainly of a battery and an atomiser where liquid is stored and gets evaporated by energy supplied to an electrical resistance. The liquid contains mainly propylene glycol and glycerol, with the option to include nicotine. A major characteristic of the EC liquid market is the availability of a variety of flavourings. Besides tobacco-like flavours, the consumer can choose flavours consisting of fruits, sweets, drinks and beverages and many more. The availability of so many flavours has been criticized by authorities such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), stating that there is a potential to attract youngsters [8]. Such a concern was probably raised by the experience with tobacco products, with studies showing that flavoured cigarettes were more appealing to young users [9]. A recent survey

of electronic cigarette users found that almost half of participants were using non-tobacco flavours [10]. However, no survey was specifically designed to detect the impact of flavourings on EC experience by users. Therefore, the purpose of this survey was to evaluate the patterns of flavourings use and determine their popularity in a sample of dedicated adult EC users.

## 2. Methods

A questionnaire was prepared by the research team in two languages (English and Greek) and was uploaded in an online survey tool ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)). A brief presentation of the survey was uploaded in the website of a non-profit EC advocates group ([www.ecigarette-research.com](http://www.ecigarette-research.com)) together with informed consents in English and Greek. If the participant agreed with the informed consent, he was redirected to the questionnaire in the respective language by pressing the “I agree” button. The survey was available online for 15 days. The protocol was approved by the ethics committee of our institution.

EC users of any age, irrespective of current or previous smoking status, were asked to participate to the survey. The survey was communicated in internet social media and several EC users’ forums and advocate groups worldwide. The IP address of the participants was recorded in order to remove double entries. There was an option for participants to report their email address for participation in future projects; unwillingness to report the email address was not a criterion for exclusion from the survey. Information about age, gender, country of residence and education level was requested. Past and present smoking status was asked and, based on the latter, participants were divided into two groups for the analysis: former smokers who had completely quit smoking and smokers who were still smoking after initiation of EC use. The questionnaire included questions about the type of flavours used regularly by the participants, whether the variety of flavourings was important in reducing or completely substituting smoking and defining the reasons for using multiple flavours. To assess difficulty in finding flavours of their preference at EC use initiation, the following question was asked: “Was it difficult to find the flavourings of your preference at initiation of EC use?”. The answers were scored as: 1, “not at all difficult”; 2, “slightly difficult”; 3, “difficult”; 4, “very difficult”; and 5, “extremely difficult”. To examine the importance of flavours variability in reducing or quitting smoking, the following question was asked: “Was the variability of flavourings important in your effort to reduce or completely substitute smoking?”. The answer was scored as: 1, “not at all important”; 2, “slightly important”; 3, “important”; 4, “very important”; and 5, “extremely important”.

## 3. Statistical Analysis

Participants were categorised into current smokers and former-smokers according to their reported status at the time of participation to the survey. Results are reported for the whole sample and for each of the subgroups. The sample size varied by variable because of missing data. In some questions, responders were allowed to choose more than one option; in these cases, each answer is presented separately and the sum of responses may exceed 100%. Kolmogorov-Smirnoff tests were performed to assess normality of distribution of variables. Continuous variables are reported as median (interquartile range [IQR]). Categorical variables are reported as number (percentage). Mann Whitney U test was used to compare continuous variables between current and former smokers, while cross tabulations with  $\chi^2$  test were used for categorical variables. Finally, a stepwise binary logistic regression analysis

was performed, with smoking status (former vs. current smoker) as the independent variable and age, gender, education level, smoking duration, number of flavourings used regularly, and EC consumption (ml liquid or number of prefilled cartomisers) as covariates. A two-tailed  $P$  value of  $<0.05$  was considered statistically significant, and all analyses were performed with commercially available statistical software (SPSS v. 18, Chicago, IL, USA).

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Baseline Characteristics

After excluding double entries, 4,618 participants were included to the analysis, with 4,515 reporting current smoking status (current vs. former smokers). The baseline characteristics of the study group and subgroups are displayed in Table 1. More than 90% were former smokers. The mean age was 40 years, with male predominance. No difference between former and current smokers was observed in age, while more males were former smokers. The vast majority were from America and Europe, with a small proportion residing in Asia and Australia. More than half of participants were educated to the level of university/college. Smoking duration was similar between subgroups. Interestingly, former smokers reported higher daily cigarette consumption before initiation of EC use, although the difference was not statistically significant. Current smokers reported a substantial reduction in cigarette consumption, from 20 to 4 cigarettes per day. The median duration of EC use was 12 months, with higher consumption (ml liquid or number of cartridges) reported by former smokers. Higher nicotine concentration liquids were used by current smokers ( $P = 0.005$ ). In total, 140 participants (3.0%) reported using non-nicotine liquids, 2.8% of former and 1% of current smokers ( $\chi^2 = 4.5$ ,  $P = 0.033$ ); 21 users of non-nicotine liquids did not mention their current smoking status. Finally, more current smokers were using first (cigarette-like) and second generation (eGo-type) devices while more former smokers were using third generation devices (also called “Mods”, variable voltage or wattage devices).

### 4.2. Perceptions in Relation to Flavours

Responses to questions related to flavours are displayed in Table 2. At the time of participation, most commonly used flavours were fruits, followed by sweets and tobacco. Significant differences were observed between subgroups. Characteristically, more current smokers were using tobacco flavours compared to former smokers, while more of the latter were using fruit and sweet flavours. On a regular basis, participants reported using 3 (IQR: 2–4) different types of flavours. At initiation of EC use, most popular flavours were tobacco followed by fruit and sweet flavours. The median score for difficulty to find the flavours of their preference at EC initiation was 2 (IQR: 1–3), with no difference between subgroups. Most participants (68.3%) were switching between flavours on a daily basis or within the day, with former smokers switching more frequently. More than half of the study sample mentioned that they like the variety of flavours and that the taste gets blunt from long-term use of the same flavour. The average score for importance of flavours variability in reducing or quitting smoking was 4 (“very important”). Finally, the majority of participants stated that restricting variability of flavours would make the EC experience less enjoyable while almost half of them answered that it

would increase craving for tobacco cigarettes and would make reducing or completely substituting smoking less likely.

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of the study population and subgroups.

Characteristic	Total	Former Smokers	Current Smokers	Statistic	P
Participants, n (%)	4,618	4,117 (91.2)	398 (8.8)		
English translation	4,386 (95.0)	3,915 (95.1)	369 (92.7)		
Greek translation	232 (5.0)	202 (4.9)	29 (7.3)		
Region of residence, n (%)					
America	2,220 (48.5)	2,007 (48.7)	157 (39.4)		
Asia	76 (1.7)	58 (1.4)	16 (4.0)		
Australia	80 (1.7)	75 (1.8)	4 (1.0)		
Europe	2,197 (48.0)	1,939 (47.1)	217 (54.5)		
Education, n (%)					
High school or less	1,037 (22.7)	917 (22.3)	98 (24.6)		
Technical Education	1,099 (24.1)	993 (24.1)	86 (21.6)		
University/College	2,425 (53.2)	2,170 (52.7)	206 (51.8)		
Age (years)	40 (32–49)	40 (32–49)	40 (32–49)	U = 754,278	0.624
Gender (male)	3,229 (71.8)	2,922 (72.7)	246 (62.5)	$\chi^2 = 18.0$	<0.001
Smoking duration (years)	22 (15–30)	22 (15–30)	22 (14–30)	U = 816,534	0.924
Cigarette consumption before EC use (/d)	24 (20–30)	25 (20–30)	20 (19–30)	U = 768,398	0.189
Cigarettes consumption after EC use (/d)			4 (2–6)		
EC use duration (months)	12 (6–23)	12 (6–23)	12 (5–23)	U = 790,219	0.373
EC consumption (ml or cartridges/d)	4 (3–5)	4 (3–5)	3 (2–5)	U = 677,862	<0.001
Nicotine levels in EC (mg/ml)	12 (6–18)	12 (6–18)	12 (8–18)	U = 722,563	0.005
EC devices used, n (%)					
Cigarette-like	84 (1.8)	61 (1.5)	20 (5.0)	$\chi^2 = 25.9$	<0.001
eGo-type	1,123 (24.7)	966 (23.5)	133 (33.4)	$\chi^2 = 19.5$	<0.001
“Mods” <sup>a</sup>	3,348 (73.5)	3,047 (74.0)	237 (59.5)	$\chi^2 = 38.3$	<0.001

Notes: Values presented as median (interquartile range) or number (percentage). Abbreviations: EC, electronic cigarette. <sup>a</sup> New generation devices, usually hand-made or with the ability to manually set the voltage or wattage delivery.

**Table 2.** Patterns of flavourings use in the study population and subgroups.

Characteristic	Total	Former Smokers	Current Smokers	Statistic	P
	<b>Flavours used now, n (%)<sup>a</sup></b>				
Tobacco	1,984 (43.9)	1,773 (43.1)	211 (53.0)	$\chi^2 = 14.6$	<0.001
Mint/menthol	1,468 (31.8)	1,339 (32.5)	129 (32.4)	$\chi^2 = 0.0$	0.964
Sweet	2,836 (61.4)	2,629 (63.9)	207 (52.0)	$\chi^2 = 21.8$	<0.001
Nuts	691 (15.0)	643 (15.6)	48 (12.1)	$\chi^2 = 3.5$	0.060
Fruits	3,203 (69.4)	2,953 (71.7)	250 (62.8)	$\chi^2 = 14.0$	<0.001
Drinks/beverages	1,699 (36.8)	1,562 (37.9)	137 (34.4)	$\chi^2 = 1.9$	0.167
Other	1,028 (22.3)	946 (23.0)	82 (20.6)	$\chi^2 = 1.2$	0.281

Table 2. Cont.

Flavours used at EC initiation, n (%) <sup>a</sup>					
Tobacco	3,118 (69.1)	2,846 (69.1)	272 (68.3)	$\chi^2 = 0.1$	0.746
Mint/menthol	1,086 (24.1)	1,004 (24.4)	82 (20.6)	$\chi^2 = 2.8$	0.092
Sweet	1,347 (29.8)	1,251 (30.4)	96 (24.1)	$\chi^2 = 6.8$	0.009
Nuts	203 (4.5)	186 (4.5)	17 (4.3)	$\chi^2 = 0.1$	0.821
Fruits	1,743 (38.6)	1,606 (39.0)	137 (34.4)	$\chi^2 = 3.2$	0.073
Drinks/beverages	808 (17.9)	748 (16.8)	60 (15.1)	$\chi^2 = 2.4$	0.124
Other	302 (6.7)	282 (6.8)	20 (5.0)	$\chi^2 = 1.9$	0.164
Switching between flavours, n (%)					
Daily/within the day	3,083 (68.3)	2,851 (69.2)	232 (58.3)	$\chi^2 = 20.1$	<0.001
Weekly	718 (15.9)	636 (15.4)	82 (20.6)	$\chi^2 = 7.2$	0.007
Less than weekly	465 (10.3)	412 (10.0)	53 (13.3)	$\chi^2 = 4.3$	0.038
At EC initiation, was it difficult to find the flavours of your preference? <sup>b</sup>	2 (1–3)	2 (1–3)	2 (1–3)	U = 760,068	0.054
Why do you feel the need to choose different flavours? n (%) <sup>a</sup>					
Like variety of choices	3,300 (73.1)	3,041 (73.9)	259 (65.1)	$\chi^2 = 14.3$	<0.001
They get “blunt” from long-term use	2,325 (51.5)	2,131 (51.8)	194 (48.7)	$\chi^2 = 1.3$	0.250
Other reasons	342 (7.6)	318 (7.7)	24 (6)	$\chi^2 = 1.5$	0.223
Was flavours variability important in reducing/quitting smoking? <sup>b</sup>	4 (3–5)	4 (3–5)	4 (3–5)	U = 731,547	0.455
How would your experience with EC change if flavours variability was limited? n (%) <sup>a</sup>					
Less enjoyable	3,111 (68.9)	2,886 (70.1)	225 (56.5)	$\chi^2 = 31.2$	<0.001
More boring	2,063 (45.7)	1,901 (46.2)	236 (40.7)	$\chi^2 = 4.4$	0.036
Increase craving for cigarettes	2,188 (48.5)	1,982 (48.1)	206 (51.8)	$\chi^2 = 1.9$	0.168
Less likely to reduce or quit smoking	1,793 (39.7)	1,617 (39.3)	176 (44.2)	$\chi^2 = 3.7$	0.054
No difference	285 (6.3)	253 (6.1)	32 (8.0)	$\chi^2 = 2.2$	0.138

Notes: Values presented as median (interquartile range) or number (percentage). Abbreviations: EC, electronic cigarette. <sup>a</sup> Participants were allowed to choose more than one answers. <sup>b</sup> Score reported (see text for details).

Binary logistic regression analysis showed that male gender ( $B = 0.373$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ), EC consumption ( $B = 0.046$ ,  $P = 0.044$ ) and number of flavours regularly used ( $B = 0.089$ ,  $P = 0.038$ ) were associated with complete smoking abstinence in this population of dedicated long-term vapers, while age, education level and smoking duration were not associated with smoking abstinence.

## 5. Discussion

This is the first survey that specifically focused on the issue of flavours and their impact in EC use. A substantial number of dedicated EC consumers participated; they reported that flavours play an important role in their EC use experience and in reducing cigarette consumption and craving, while the number of flavours regularly used was independently associated with complete smoking abstinence in this population.

The availability of a variety of flavours has been a controversial issue since the initial appearance of ECs to the market. Most companies offer a variety of flavours, from those resembling tobacco to a large

number commonly used in the food industry. Public health authorities have raised concerns about this issue, and several statements have been released suggesting flavours could attract youngsters [8,11,12]. Such concerns are probably rooted back to the marketing of the tobacco industry for flavoured tobacco cigarettes. Internal industry documents and published surveys indicated that flavoured tobacco products are more appealing to youngsters and may be a gateway to maintaining smoking as a long term habit, while use by adults was quite low [13–16]. This is the main reason why the FDA decided to implement a ban on characteristic flavours in tobacco cigarettes [17]. It was expected that such concerns would be raised for ECs, although current vapers are overwhelmingly adults. Anecdotal evidence from EC consumers' internet forums and results from surveys [10] have shown that different flavours are very popular among dedicated users. The results of this survey confirm previous observations by finding that dedicated users switch between flavours frequently and the variability of flavours plays an important role both in reducing cigarette craving and in perceived pleasure. Moreover, the number of flavours used was associated with smoking cessation. Therefore, flavour variability is needed to support the demand by current vapers, who are in their vast majority adults. This survey also indicated that there is a switch in flavour preference of EC consumers; tobacco is the preferred flavour when initiating EC use, probably because smokers are used to this flavour and feel the need to use something that resembles their experience from smoking. However, different choices are made as time of use progresses. This may be a way to distract them from the tobacco flavour in order to reduce smoking craving; alternatively, it could indicate that they just don't need the tobacco flavour any more, but feel the desire to experiment with new flavours. In some cases, tobacco flavour may even become unpleasant, especially in those who have completely quit smoking. The improvement in olfactory and gustatory senses in these people can lead to both more pleasure perceived from different flavours and an aversion to tobacco flavour (in a similar way that it is unpleasant for a non-smoker); the latter has been reported in EC consumers' forums (<http://www.e-cigarette-forum.com/forum/polls/209041-do-you-vape-tobacco-flavors.html>). Such a phenomenon may contribute to lower relapse to smoking and may prevent the EC from being a gateway to smoking; however, this should be specifically studied before making any conclusions. Finally, the issue of taste buds "tolerance", which is anecdotally mentioned by vapers, was reported by almost half of the sample as a reason to switch between flavours, although it is most probably a type of olfactory rather than gustatory tolerance.

Besides information on the use of flavourings, this survey provides information on other issues related to EC use. A small minority of participants were using first generation cigarette-like devices. This has been observed in other surveys [10]. There was a higher prevalence of third-generation devices used in the subgroup of former smokers compared to current smokers. Such devices have the ability to provide higher energy to the atomiser, thus producing more vapour and delivering more pleasure to the user [18,19]. Until now, two randomised studies evaluating the efficacy of EC use in smoking cessation have used first-generation cigarette-like devices [20,21]. It is possible that newer generation devices may be more effective in substituting smoking, and this should be evaluated in future studies. Additionally, former smokers were using lower nicotine-concentration liquids compared to current smokers. It has been observed from previous studies that EC users who have completely substituted smoking try to gradually reduce their nicotine use [18]. Despite that, only 2.8% of former smokers were using 0-nicotine liquids at the time of survey participation, indicating that nicotine is

important in smoking abstinence and that EC consumers remain long-term nicotine users. However, the possibility that several vapers may quit EC use shortly after switching to non-nicotine liquids cannot be excluded; such users would not participate to this survey, therefore overestimating the significance of nicotine on EC use. Finally, we observed a male predominance in participation to this survey, which is in line with previous studies [10,18]. In this survey, males were more likely to have completely quit smoking. Further studies are needed to explore this phenomenon and define whether females are less successful in smoking cessation with EC use, are less motivated long-term users or use ECs in the short term as smoking substitutes.

There are some limitations applicable to this study. The survey was announced and promoted in popular EC websites. Therefore, it is expected that dedicated users with positive experience with ECs would mainly participate, and the high proportion of former smokers confirms this. However, it is important to evaluate the patterns of use in smokers who have successfully quit smoking, since this can provide health officials with information on how to educate smokers into using ECs, especially during the initial period of use. Although a significant proportion stated that flavours play a major role in reducing or quitting smoking, this study was not designed to evaluate whether variability of flavours may promote smoking cessation in the general population; moreover our sample is not representative of the general population of smokers, who are generally less educated compared to the population evaluated here [22]. This should be evaluated in a randomised study. Finally, although the fact that flavours are important for existing EC users provides sufficient explanation for their current marketing, it does not exclude the possibility that they may also attract youngsters. However, currently available evidence indicates that regular use of ECs by non-smoking adults or youngsters is very limited [23–25]; thus, any restriction of flavours for the reason of protecting youngsters is currently not substantiated by evidence and no public health benefit would be derived. On the contrary, such a measure could have a negative impact and cause harm in current vapers, who are reporting that they enjoy flavours and that restrictions would make smoking reduction or cessation more difficult and would increase cigarette craving. Therefore, it would be more realistic and valuable to promote restrictions to the use of ECs by youngsters and to properly inform the public that ECs should be used only by smokers as a method to reduce cigarette consumption or completely substitute smoking.

## 6. Conclusions

The results of this survey indicate that EC liquid flavourings play a major role in the overall experience of dedicated users and support the hypothesis that they are important contributors in reducing or eliminating smoking consumption. This should be considered by the health authorities; based on the current minimal adoption of ECs by youngsters, it is reasonable to support that any proposed regulation should ensure that flavourings are available to EC consumers while at the same time restrictions to the use by youngsters (especially non-smokers) should be imposed in order to avoid future penetration of EC use to this population.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank E-Cigarette Research Advocates Group for promoting the survey in their website ([www.ecigarette-research.com](http://www.ecigarette-research.com)). This is a non-profit group of electronic cigarette users with no



relation to the electronic cigarette or other industry. The website does not promote or present any electronic cigarette product and do not accept any advertisements. The sole purpose of the group is to inform about research conducted on electronic cigarettes. Konstantinos E. Farsalinos has been allowed to present studies and post comments concerning electronic cigarette research on this website, without providing or receiving any form of payment. We would also like to thank all other websites and internet forums for promoting the survey and encouraging electronic cigarette users to participate. None of the websites promoting the survey had any access to the data collected from participants. No funding was received for this study.

### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## E-Cigarettes May Not Be Gateway to Smoking: Study

It found few teens go on to smoke cigarettes, use other kinds of tobacco after 'vaping'



By [Brenda Goodman](#)  
HealthDay Reporter

TUESDAY, Oct. 29, 2013 (HealthDay News) -- E-cigarettes don't appear to entice teens to try smoking tobacco, a new study says.

The researchers noted that doesn't mean that e-cigarettes are risk-free, but it should reassure parents that teens who try the devices may simply be doing so for the novelty and aren't necessarily setting themselves up for a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Last month, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that "vaping," or inhaling the nicotine vapors from e-cigarettes, might be a dangerous new fad that could set teens up for smoking.

In just one year, the number of kids in grades six through 12 who said they'd ever tried an e-cigarette more than doubled, rising from 3.3 percent to 6.8 percent. Among the 2.1 percent who said they were current e-cigarette users, more than three-quarters said they also smoked regular cigarettes.

Given that overlap, many health experts worried that e-cigarettes might be acting like a gateway drug, sucking kids more deeply into nicotine addiction, and law officials urged the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products.

The new study suggests that may not be the case.

Researchers surveyed 1,300 college students about their tobacco and nicotine use. The average age of study participants was 19.

"We asked what the first tobacco product they ever tried was and what their current tobacco use looked like," said researcher Theodore Wagener, an assistant professor of general and community pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, in Oklahoma City.

Overall, 43 students said their first nicotine product was an e-cigarette. Of that group, only one person said they went on to smoke regular cigarettes. And the vast majority who started with e-cigarettes said they weren't currently using any nicotine or tobacco.

"It didn't seem as though it really proved to be a gateway to anything," said Wagener, who presented his findings at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, in National Harbor, Md.

Study findings presented at medical conferences are considered preliminary since they haven't been carefully reviewed by outside experts for publication in a medical journal.

E-cigarettes, which use a heating element to vaporize a liquid nicotine solution, are relatively easy for teens to purchase.

While federal rules block the sale of regular cigarettes to anyone under age 18, there are currently no such rules for e-cigarettes. About half of states prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, but they can also be bought online.

The devices are advertised on TV and popular YouTube videos. They come in sweet flavors that appeal to teens like green apple, watermelon and bubble gum.

"The use of these products is increasing dramatically," while little is known about the risks, said Scott Leischow, who co-leads the cancer prevention and control program at the Mayo

## HealthDay Video

Young girls may face special risks from secondhand smoke.

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Clinic in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"It seems like we're in the midst of a national experiment," he said during a Tuesday news conference.

Wagener agreed. He said that most teens and adults who use e-cigarettes seem to be using them to stop smoking or at least to reduce the harm from smoking tobacco.

But he says that parents should be sure to let kids know that e-cigarettes still carry some risk.

"I think parents should be vigilant and talk to their kids and let them know that this not a 100-percent safe product. It's not water vapor. It's nicotine. It has carcinogens in it," he said.

"It might be less than regular cigarettes, but at the end of the day, they're still putting something that has carcinogens and toxins into their system," Wagener said.

More information

For information on electronic cigarettes, head to the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#).

SOURCES: Theodore Wagener, Ph.D., assistant professor, general and community pediatrics, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City; Scott Leischow, co-leader, cancer prevention and control program, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Oct. 29, 2013, press briefing, American Association for Cancer Research conference, National Harbor, Md.

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## The Rest of the Story: Tobacco News Analysis and Commentary

...Providing the whole story behind tobacco news.

### Monday, September 09, 2013

#### **Electronic Cigarette Experimentation Increases Among Youth, But Use Among Nonsmokers Remains Low and Regular Use Rates are Still Unknown**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reported](#) last week that the prevalence of youth in grades 6-12 who have experimented with electronic cigarettes in the past month increased from 1.1% in 2011 to 2.1% in 2012. Among middle school students, the prevalence of past month use increased from 0.6% to 1.1%. Among high school students, past-month use increased from 1.5% to 2.8%.

Based on these results, CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden [proclaimed](#): "The increased use of e-cigarettes by teens is deeply troubling....Nicotine is a highly addictive drug. Many teens who start with e-cigarettes may be condemned to struggling with a lifelong addiction to nicotine and conventional cigarettes."

In [response](#) to the CDC report, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal stated as follows: "'Electronic cigarettes as marketed today – with flavors like bubblegum and strawberry – are targeted at young people with the very clear intent of creating a new generation of smokers. Without question, tobacco companies are using the same despicable tactics with e-cigarettes that they used in previous decades with traditional cigarettes to lure youth down a path of nicotine addiction and eventual death."

Senator Markey [responded](#): "'These e-cigarettes are a gateway to tobacco use by children and teens and should not be marketed to youth."

#### **The Rest of the Story**

The alarm calls being made by public health officials and politicians are premature. And their conclusions are unsupported by these data.

In no way do these data support the hypothesis that electronic cigarettes are a "gateway to tobacco use" by children and teens as Senator Markey claims. And there is no evidence provided that electronic cigarettes are being "targeted at young people with the very clear intent of creating a new generation of smokers" as Attorney General Blumenthal claims.

It is not at all surprising that youth smokers might experiment with electronic cigarettes. To the extent that these youth are able to switch over to electronic cigarettes, they are most likely reducing their long-term prospects of becoming cigarette smoking addicts. The danger is if **nonsmoking** youth start using these products and then end up becoming addicted to nicotine, causing them to transition to cigarette smoking.

But what do the CDC data tell us about whether the kids experimenting with e-cigarettes are smokers or nonsmokers?

Among youth who experimented with electronic cigarettes in 2012, the overwhelming majority - 90.6% - were smokers. Only about one in ten of the youths who experimented with electronic cigarettes were never smokers. And among the high school students who tried electronic cigarettes, only 7.2% were never smokers. Thus, it is quite clear that the overwhelming majority of the experimentation that is occurring among youth is happening among youth **who already smoke cigarettes**. This is not necessarily a bad thing, on its own, if it can reduce the chances of these youths becoming lifelong cigarette addicts.

The proportion of nonsmoking youth who experimented with e-cigarettes in the past 30 days remains small:

- Overall, only 0.5% of youth were nonsmokers using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days;
- Among middle school students, only 0.4% were nonsmokers using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days; and
- Among high school students, only 0.5% were nonsmokers using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days.

There are three other important points that make up the rest of the story.

### **1. The survey measured experimentation, but not regular e-cigarette use.**

It is not surprising that about 2% of youth would try electronic cigarettes. But the important issue is what percentage of these youth enjoy them enough to become regular users? The CDC survey measured past month use (which is essentially experimentation), but it did not assess daily use, or anything close to regular use. So what we end up with is a measure of experimentation, but no idea of whether youth are actually taking up this behavior and becoming regular vapers.

### **2. The survey found no evidence that e-cigarettes are a gateway to smoking.**

In contrast to the alarming statements of the politicians and the CDC director (who was talking more like a politician), the survey provided no evidence whatsoever that electronic cigarettes are serving as a gateway to cigarette use. Not a single case was documented in which a nonsmoking youth began using electronic cigarettes, became addicted to nicotine, and then went on to become a regular cigarette smoker. So we're still in the realm of unsubstantiated claims.

### **3. The low rates of youth nonsmoker use of e-cigarettes in light of the high rates of experimentation with e-cigarettes among youth suggest that e-cigarettes are not currently a major problem that is creating a gateway to increased cigarette addiction.**

Given that the rate of experimentation with electronic cigarettes is as high as 10% among high school students, the finding that only 0.5% of high school students are nonsmoking, current electronic cigarette users is actually somewhat reassuring. It suggests that this behavior has not caught on among nonsmokers -- at least not yet.

**4. Neither this study, nor other evidence, supports the assertion that electronic cigarettes are being marketed with the intention of recruiting youth and/or creating new cigarette smokers from those youth.**

It is difficult to refute a statement for which there is no evidence presented in support. Attorney General Blumenthal claims that electronic cigarettes "are targeted at young people with the very clear intent of creating a new generation of smokers." However, he provides not a shred of evidence to support this outcontention. Perhaps in political circles, that flies. But in science, it does not. I cannot make a statement like that with providing at least some supporting evidence.

In fact, the existing evidence refutes Blumenthal's contention, because the clear intention of electronic cigarette marketers is to sell as many electronic cigarettes as they can, not as many cigarettes as they can. In fact, of the more than 250 companies now on the general market, only one even sells cigarettes in the first place. Blumenthal's assertion, therefore, is not only unsubstantiated, but preposterous.

**Summary**

The rest of the story is that both health leaders and politicians (perhaps being one in the same) are using these data to make false and exaggerated claims that have no basis in science. There is no evidence that regular electronic cigarette use is becoming a substantial problem among youth nonsmokers and there remains no evidence that electronic cigarettes have become a gateway to cigarette addiction. There is also no evidence that these products are being marketed with the intention of turning youth into new cigarette smokers.

Nevertheless, I am in no way arguing here that regulation is not needed. Just the opposite. The FDA needs to step in and do everything it reasonably can to ensure that electronic cigarettes do not become popular among youth, and especially that they do not become a gateway to nicotine addiction and cigarette use.

- [Michael Siegel](#)

Dr. Siegel is a Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health. He has 25 years of experience in the field of tobacco control. He previously spent two years working at the Office on Smoking and Health at CDC, where he conducted research on secondhand smoke and cigarette advertising. He has published nearly 70 papers related to tobacco. He testified in the landmark Engle lawsuit against the tobacco companies, which resulted in an unprecedented \$145 billion verdict against the industry. He teaches social and behavioral sciences, mass communication and public health, and public health advocacy in the Masters of Public Health program.



## The Rest of the Story: Tobacco News Analysis and Commentary

...Providing the whole story behind tobacco news.

### Thursday, October 31, 2013

#### **First Study to Examine E-Cigarette Gateway Hypothesis Can Find Only One Nonsmoker Who Initiated with E-Cigs and Went on to Smoke**

In the first [study](#) to examine the hypothesis that electronic cigarettes are a gateway for youth to become addicted to cigarettes, Dr. Ted Wagener from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center reports being able to find only one young person who initiated nicotine use with e-cigarettes and then went on to smoke cigarettes, out of a sample of 1,300 college students.

The study has not yet been published, but it was presented Tuesday at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Washington, D.C.

According to Brenda Goodman's *HealthDay* [article](#) summarizing the study: "E-cigarettes don't appear to entice teens to try smoking tobacco, a new study says. ... Last month, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that "vaping," or inhaling the nicotine vapors from e-cigarettes, might be a dangerous new fad that could set teens up for smoking. In just one year, the number of kids in grades six through 12 who said they'd ever tried an e-cigarette more than doubled, rising from 3.3 percent to 6.8 percent. Among the 2.1 percent who said they were current e-cigarette users, more than three-quarters said they also smoked regular cigarettes. Given that overlap, many health experts worried that e-cigarettes might be acting like a gateway drug, sucking kids more deeply into nicotine addiction, and law officials urged the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products."

"The new study suggests that may not be the case. Researchers surveyed 1,300 college students about their tobacco and nicotine use. The average age of study participants was 19. "We asked what the first tobacco product they ever tried was and what their current tobacco use looked like," said researcher Theodore Wagener, an assistant professor of general and community pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, in Oklahoma City. Overall, 43 students said their first nicotine product was an e-cigarette. Of that group, only one person said they went on to smoke regular cigarettes. And the vast majority who started with e-cigarettes said they weren't currently using any nicotine or tobacco."

"It didn't seem as though it really proved to be a gateway to anything," said Wagener, who presented his findings at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, in National Harbor, Md."

#### **The Rest of the Story**

This study provides preliminary evidence that electronic cigarettes are not currently serving as a major

gateway to cigarette smoking. Of course, more studies of this nature, as well as longitudinal studies, are necessary to firmly answer this question. And importantly, this only reflects the current situation and things can change at any time. It is important that we remain vigilant and closely monitor youth electronic cigarette use over time.

I should also make it clear that in no way am I arguing that sales and marketing restrictions are not needed. In fact, I am hoping that the FDA will promulgate regulations that do strictly regulate the sale and marketing of electronic cigarettes to youth.

What this evidence does highlight is how unfortunate it was that CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden disseminated to the public a [conclusion](#) about this research question, telling the public that we already know the answer and that electronic cigarettes are a gateway to tobacco addiction. Dr. Frieden stated that: "*many kids are starting out with e-cigarettes and then going on to smoke conventional cigarettes.*"

Unfortunately, this premature speculation (or conclusion, as the above statement does not seem to be speculative) led to widespread media dissemination to the public of the news that electronic cigarettes are a gateway to tobacco addiction. These articles are already having an effect on policy makers throughout the country.

In a *Forbes* magazine online [column](#) today, Jacob Sullum explains how many tobacco control advocates, including Dr. Frieden, "jumped all over CDC survey data indicating that the percentage of teenagers who have tried e-cigarettes doubled (from 3.3 percent to 6.8 percent) between 2011 and 2012." Sullum writes: "'Many teens who start with e-cigarettes may be condemned to struggling with a lifelong addiction to nicotine and conventional cigarettes,' CDC Director Tom Frieden [worried](#). But the survey data [the CDC data] provided no evidence that e-cigarettes are a gateway to the conventional kind, and a new study [the Wagener study] casts further doubt on that hypothesis."

The issue of whether electronic cigarettes serve as a gateway to youth tobacco addiction is a very serious one. It should not be taken lightly. If these products lead to increased cigarette smoking among youth then this harm would offset the benefits of enhanced smoking cessation and electronic cigarettes would no longer have net public health benefits. So this is a crucial research question.

But I emphasize that it is a "question." It does a disservice to the public to draw pre-determined conclusions, as Dr. Frieden did in telling the public that we already have the answer: kids **are** starting out with e-cigarettes and going on to smoke conventional cigarettes.

Our public policies must be science-based. But when one draws pre-determined conclusions, rather than rely on the scientific evidence, this does not lead to evidence-based policies. My fear is that because of a strong pre-existing ideology against electronic cigarettes because they simulate the physical actions of smoking, tobacco control groups are drawing conclusions based on ideology rather than on science.

- [Michael Siegel](#)

Dr. Siegel is a Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health. He has 25 years of experience in the field of tobacco control. He

previously spent two years working at the Office on Smoking and Health at CDC, where he conducted research on secondhand smoke and cigarette advertising. He has published nearly 70 papers related to tobacco. He testified in the landmark Engle lawsuit against the tobacco companies, which resulted in an unprecedented \$145 billion verdict against the industry. He teaches social and behavioral sciences, mass communication and public health, and public health advocacy in the Masters of Public Health program.

# The Rest of the Story: Tobacco News Analysis and Commentary

...Providing the whole story behind tobacco news.

## Friday, December 06, 2013

### **CDC is Exaggerating the Problem of Electronic Cigarette Use Among Non-Tobacco Users**

Previously, I [discussed](#) a CDC [study](#) which found a doubling of the prevalence of current electronic cigarette use among youth from 2011 to 2012. This report has been used to alarm the public and policy makers about the hazards of electronic cigarettes, with the CDC director claiming that these data demonstrate that e-cigarettes are serving as a gateway to a lifetime of youth addiction to smoking.

In my previous analysis, I pointed out that the CDC has been consistently leaving out an important part of the story: despite the doubling of electronic cigarette use, most of the current use is taking place among adolescents who already smoke cigarettes. The real concern would be if non-tobacco users were trying electronic cigarettes, becoming addicted to nicotine, and then progressing to cigarette smoking.

#### **The Rest of the Story**

Today, I report that the CDC's misrepresentation of its study results goes even deeper. Dr. Brad Rodu, Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville, has [revealed](#) that the CDC has left out even more critical information.

In its report, the CDC noted that in 2012, 76.3% of middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes in the past month were smokers. Thus, 23.7% of students who currently used e-cigarettes were nonsmokers. However, Dr. Rodu's own analysis of the National Youth Tobacco Survey for 2012 shows that of these nonsmokers, more than half were actually using other tobacco products, such as smokeless tobacco or cigars. And of the remaining half who were not using other tobacco products, about half of that group had already experimented with smoking.

Thus, only 10.8% of electronic cigarette users were non-tobacco users with no previous tobacco cigarette use.

This means that the estimated prevalence of youth in the population who are current e-cigarette users but have never used tobacco products is only 0.25%.

This does not mean that the possibility of youth starting with e-cigarettes and progressing to smoking should not be a concern. What it does mean is that the CDC appears more interested in promoting a particular position on e-cigarettes than in providing the public with the facts.

There is little evidence regarding why youth are using electronic cigarettes. It is possible, for

example, that many youth who are smokers or other tobacco product users may be trying electronic cigarettes in an effort to quit their tobacco use. If this is the case, then experimentation with electronic cigarettes could actually have a net benefit among youth. I emphasize that this is merely a hypothetical possibility. But the point is that we don't understand the reasons behind electronic cigarette use among youth. It does us no good to draw conclusions, as the CDC has done, without the proper evidence.

Dr. Rodu concludes: "CDC director Tom Frieden may wish to use his position as a bully pulpit to oppose e-cigarette use, but abusing the facts is inexcusable."

I agree, but would change the end of the sentence to emphasize that **not providing the relevant facts** is inexcusable.

To be sure, the issue of electronic cigarettes is a complex one, especially as it relates to youth experimentation with these products and how that changes the overall cost-benefit picture. There is room for debate on the issue and it actually helps ensure appropriate policy to have folks who force us to remain vigilant about the possibility that electronic cigarettes could serve as a gateway to established smoking. However, it does not do us a service for public health organizations to hide relevant facts from the public in order to promote a pre-established position. The best and most appropriate policy will come from a full consideration of the facts, not from the hiding of the facts.

- [Michael Siegel](#)

Dr. Siegel is a Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health. He has 25 years of experience in the field of tobacco control. He previously spent two years working at the Office on Smoking and Health at CDC, where he conducted research on secondhand smoke and cigarette advertising. He has published nearly 70 papers related to tobacco. He testified in the landmark Engle lawsuit against the tobacco companies, which resulted in an unprecedented \$145 billion verdict against the industry. He teaches social and behavioral sciences, mass communication and public health, and public health advocacy in the Masters of Public Health program.

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## E-cigarettes: Healthy tool or gateway device?

By [Jen Christensen](#), CNN

updated 12:46 PM EST, Thu February 6, 2014

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### Are e-cigarettes bad for your health?

#### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Smoking is still the leading cause of avoidable death in the United States

E-cigarettes are being used by more people as a nicotine alternative

Opponents worry e-cigarettes are being marketed to kids, who may be hooked for life

(CNN) -- If the tiny sample of smokers in a [new study in the British journal Lancet](#) are any indication, electronic cigarettes might be slightly more effective than nicotine patches in helping people quit smoking.

Great, right? [Except another new study](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests more children and teens are trying them.

The implications of both these studies means electronic cigarettes have been getting a lot of attention lately. Just what e-cigarettes are and what role they should play in helping people quit smoking depends very much on who you speak with about this topic.

Smoking is still the leading cause of avoidable death in the United States. The devices are not one of the FDA-approved methods to help people quit, but many people are using them this way. A growing number of scientists are studying them to see whether they may be a way to end an epidemic.

The topic, though, remains as polarizing a health issue as [sex education](#) or [diet sodas](#).

#### An e-what?

The e-cigarette was actually developed by a pharmacist in China.

The [pharmacist, Hon Lik](#), was a three-pack-a-day smoker. That was nothing unusual -- more than [300 million](#) people in China are regular smokers. But when Lik's father, who was also a heavy smoker, died

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of lung cancer, Lik decided he had to come up with an alternative that wouldn't kill him.

Most scientists believe nicotine itself, while highly addictive, is not what causes [cancer for smokers](#) or for the people around them who breathe their second-hand smoke. Instead, it's the toxic chemicals that are created when tobacco and filler products burn that are dangerous.

If there was a way to get nicotine addicts their fix without the burn, you just might avoid the health problems. Nicotine then becomes as harmless as any other addictive substance, such as caffeine, some experts say.

So Lik developed an e-cigarette -- a device that uses a small battery to atomize a pure liquid solution of nicotine. Nothing is burned. There is no ash. There is no smoke. There is nicotine, and then there is flavoring added for taste.

Essentially the person using these inhales a kind of vapor that looks like fog from a fog machine. A [recent review](#) of all the scientific research done on e-cigarettes by Drexel University professor [Igor Burstyn](#) concludes "current data do not indicate that exposures to vapors from contaminants in electronic cigarettes warrant a concern."

In plain language, Burstyn concludes: "It's about as harmless as you can get."

"I wouldn't worry at all if someone was smoking one of these by my kids," Burstyn said. "From a pure health perspective, these are not as bad as a cigarette."

E-cigarettes came to the U.S. market around 2009. The CDC now estimates about one in five American smokers have tried an e-cigarette -- that's about [6% of all adults](#).

There are e-cigarette stores, but now you can also buy them online or in convenience stores. Some look like regular cigarettes; some look like pens or thumb drives.

First you buy a starter kit, which costs between \$40 and \$130. In the kit is the e-cigarette, a charger and a few cartridges. The cartridges typically last as long as a 20-pack of cigarettes and sell for around \$10. You can also buy a bottle of e-liquid to refill the cartridge yourself.

### The anti-e-cigarette camp

Critics point out e-cigarettes come in kid-friendly flavors such as [gummy bear](#), [atomic fireball candy](#) and [cookies and cream](#). It makes them worry that e-cigarettes will become a gateway to encourage kids to develop a lifelong nicotine addiction -- or worse, try the real thing.

Only about 20 states specifically forbid the sale of e-cigarettes to children.

Tobacco use has been on the decline with kids; it's about half what it was in the [mid-1990s](#). But the latest [CDC study](#) shows a growing number of middle and high school students have tried e-cigarettes.

One in 10 high school students surveyed said they had tried e-cigarettes last year. That's double the number from 2011. One [high school](#) in Connecticut banned them after the principal said administrators dealt with at least one incident involving e-cigarettes every day.

CDC director Tom Frieden characterized this trend as "[deeply troubling](#)."

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But as far as risky behavior goes, it's still a tiny fraction of students. The survey showed about 3% of these kids said they had used one in the last 30 days. [By contrast](#), 39% of students said they drank some amount of alcohol in the past 30 days, 22% binge drank and 24% rode with a driver who had been drinking.

The real problem is that 88% of adult smokers who smoke daily said they started when they were kids, according to the CDC. Kids who start down the path to using e-cigarettes may stick with them for life.

"So much is unknown about them and what the long-term complications could be with their use," said the American Lung Association's Erika Sward. "Bottom line, we don't know what the consequences of using them are, and we are very troubled that kids would find them attractive."

E-cigarettes are unregulated in the United States; no laws make manufacturers tell you what you are actually inhaling. The unknown is one of the many qualities of e-cigarettes that the [American Lung Association](#) doesn't like.

It's "a complete unregulated Wild West," Sward said. She wants the FDA to move quickly with regulatory oversight, which she says would make manufacturers disclose what the actual ingredients are in each of the 250 or so brands available.

In 2009, a [FDA test](#) on a small number of e-cigarette samples found "detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals to which users could potentially be exposed." They found diethylene glycol in one cartridge at a 1% level; this is an ingredient used in antifreeze and can be toxic to humans in large quantities. Diethylene glycol is also found in some dental products and in some pharmaceuticals.

After that study, the FDA banned the sale of e-cigarettes. They warned e-cigarette smokers that they were inhaling "toxic" and "harmful" chemicals. However, in [2010](#), a court ruled that "the FDA had cited no evidence to show that electronic cigarettes harmed anyone," and stores could go on selling them.

### **The early e-adopters**

On the other side of the debate are the passionate supporters of e-cigarettes. Many who use them say it is the first thing that has helped them stop using cigarettes -- something more than 90% of smokers fail to do with any of the existing FDA-approved methods. There are blogs and message boards dedicated to them. And there are countless impassioned testimonials from the people who use them.

Florida resident Craig Lashley says they've changed his life.

"I got tired of being like that little kid in 'Peanuts' who had the cloud of smoke following him all the time," Lashley said. "I didn't like the way I smelled when I smoked, and I didn't like what smoking said about me, especially to kids."

He discovered the e-cigarette about a year ago and hasn't smoked a regular cigarette since.

He says he smells better, feels better and spends a lot less -- about \$10 a week on e-cigarettes. He used to spend about \$45 a week on regular cigarettes.

"I like the feel of blowing smoke," Lashley said. "It seems to me like (e-cigarettes are) a healthier alternative."

A growing number of respected physicians and scientists agree, and they say these products could end a major health problem.

"Electronic cigarettes and other nicotine-containing devices offer



massive potential to improve public health, by providing smokers with a much safer alternative to tobacco," the [Royal College of Physicians](#) says. "They need to be widely available and affordable to smokers."

The latest study, published in the British journal the Lancet, examined whether people who used them as an alternative to smoking would abstain from using regular cigarettes.

The New Zealand authors studied the behavior of 657 people who were trying to quit. One group got nicotine patches, another got nicotine e-cigarettes and others got placebo e-cigarettes without the nicotine.

Over a period of six months, only a tiny fraction of the people in the study actually quit smoking.

People using the nicotine e-cigarettes quit at a slightly better rate compared with those using the patch, though. Some 7.3% using the e-cigarettes abstained from smoking traditional cigarettes compared with the 5.8% who stopped with the patch. About 4.1% stopped with just the placebo e-cigarettes.

It was such a small number of people who quit that the authors concluded "more research is urgently needed to clearly establish their overall benefits and harms at both individual and population levels."

[Dr. Michael Siegel](#), a physician who has spent the past couple decades working on tobacco control initiatives, has been surprised by the negative reaction to e-cigarettes from so many people in the public health sector. Siegel says [the studies he's done](#) have shown e-cigarettes are a help.

"True we don't know the long-term health effect of e-cigarettes, but there's a very good likelihood that smokers are going to get lung cancer if they don't quit smoking," he said. "If they can switch to these and quit smoking traditional cigarettes, why condemn them?"

Siegel theorizes the e-cigarettes might look too much like smoking.

"It's ironic the very thing that makes them so effective ... drives the anti-smoking groups crazy. But what makes them so effective is it mimics the physical behaviors smokers have, which is something the patch can't do."

Siegel does believe there is an urgent need for more regulations.

Ray Story, founder of the [Tobacco Vapor Electronic Cigarette Association](#), agrees. He says his association has also pushed for age verification legislation.

"When you have these companies trying to promote these as something they are not, and you have stores that sell them in the candy aisle, you are going to have a problem," Story said. "If they are officially categorized as a tobacco product, you get an automatic age verification put in place."

"Nicotine is addictive, and we want the federal government to create guidelines and a structure that will confine these to being sold as adult products."

Lashley says no matter what the debate, he will continue to spread the e-cigarette gospel to his fellow adults.

So far, his co-workers have been receptive to the idea. He used to be the only one with an e-cigarette on smoke breaks. Now he says he's got more than a dozen colleagues doing the same.

One colleague, though, complained about it.

"He said 'I'm sick of all these people smoking electronic cigarettes,'" Lashley said. "When I asked him why he said, 'Simple, now I can't bum any off of them.' "

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**MichiganDodie3695** • 5 months ago

Even if kids did get hooked on e-cigs, and I am not saying that they should ever try them, but atleast it wouldn't cause the damage real cigarettes do. I'm relatively young, 25, but have smoked for 8-9 years and am not proud of it. It's something I wish I didn't do. It's very hard to quit. I can't stand to see people getting p\*ssed over something that's helping others to quit smoking, making a mountain out of a mole hill.

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i smoked for about 33yrs when i came across a site called ecig reviews, i chose V2 and have been using them for a couple years now, maybe i'll quit someday but right now i am not coughing anymore, i don't stink anymore, i don't get dirty looks anymore (except from people whose faces are just naturally like that) and i'm not breathing in carcinogens, i feel way better and still get my nicotine, which keeps me calm. i hope these aren't banned because of a bunch of do-gooders who think they have the right to run everybody's life.

59 | • Reply • Share &gt;

**Douglas Dixon** → getbackjack • 4 months ago

I also started with V2 e-cigs, and quit completely within a week!!! Its been about a year and a half now. So 'getbackjack' YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH! Thank you for your comments. Please check out CASSA!

3 | • Reply • Share &gt;

**Richard Thethird** → getbackjack • 5 months ago

The only reason it "keeps you calm" is that you are addicted to it and your body starts screaming out for it after levels in your body have decreased enough. Imagine if you had never started; you'd be calm all the time, without drugs!

7 | 13 • Reply • Share &gt;

**getbackjack** → Richard Thethird • 5 months ago

i think i pretty much figured that out over the course of my life, but thanks for the input

32 | • Reply • Share &gt;

**Bob Jones** → Richard Thethird • 5 months ago

yeah someone smoking for 33 years... probably hadnt figured that out yet... thaaaaaaaaaaaaaanks

19 | 1 • Reply • Share &gt;

**Kuros** → Richard Thethird • 5 months ago

Thanks special agent Dick Hindsight.

10 | • Reply • Share &gt;

**Jerk Face** → Richard Thethird • 5 months ago

Yeah, Dick, but he did start, and is using e-cigs to "stop coughing" and to "stop breathing in carcinogens". It's not easy to stop smoking...kind of like it's not easy for you to not be such a m0r0nic l05er.

Richard the third.....pleeeeeeeaseee....what do you think you're royalty? You probably drive a 1977 chevy nova you Dbag.

7 | • Reply • Share &gt;

**jpmc1025** → Richard Thethird • 5 months ago



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**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:17:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jostin I am a former smoker of 20 year's, I oppose HB276, for the simple fact that this bill is unfair in the statement of Flavors is the reason of being the root cause of the teenage vaping epidemic is false, as a former smoker of traditional combustible cigarettes, vaping and its Flavors has helped myself, family members and friends of legal smoking and vaping age whether it be State age laws or federal to stay away from and stop smoking cigarettes, since I've quit smoking and started vaping having flavors to enjoy as a law abiding citizen while vaping should be a right that shouldn't be taken away to legal adults. As an adult we should have a choice to vape a flavor!! The vaping epidemic in Hawaii and the USA of teenager are because of certain devices like "Juul" and similar ones like it being easily accessible through gas stations, convenience stores ect, at least 90% of actual vape shops have taken part in sales to minors prior to laws being in place it started from 18 years of age now in some states like here in Hawaii its 21, these vape shops, manufactures and companies who follow the rules will be getting punished for the fact that the reasons behind the epidemic isn't being directed toward. The product that most of the vaping community disagrees with due to the accessibility in gas stations & convenience stores is what most teens are using because place other than vape shops dont take it seriously when asking for ID. There should be more stings to help aid the root cause & not punishing responsible Vape shops and adults. By taking away something "flavors" vaping Eliquids ect that has made a huge impact by lessing the amount of Traditional tobacco cigarette use state and nation wide, will greatly impact citizens to go back to combustible cigarettes which is definitely more toxic due to the fact my own Doctor has told me since I quit smoking cigarettes my health is much better in comparison.

Attachment "A1" is a letter from The FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb. It states that the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has contributed to a decline of combustible tobacco, which is known to cause cancer. It also clearly states that it intends on limiting flavored cigarettes to age restricted stores, or areas.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your your time

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:17:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Let me start by saying I'm 28! I've started of with buying cigarettes at the age of 13. That mean i was in 8th grade. I didn't start vaping until i was 18. Vaping has helped me greatly to quit to cigarette habit as well as helped me to cut down on my nicotine. I smell better. I don't get shortness of breath anymore and my asthma has been little to nothing!

But the real question is why ban the flavors? Why do i not have to right to vape the flavor that i please? You allow people to drink alcohol in many different flavors! When it's proven that drinking causes more deaths then vaping flavors. I'm pretty sure there is a better way to handle this situation.

Thank you for your time,

kawehi

“The key difference between traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes and related products is that the latter don’t contain tobacco. But, it isn’t just the tobacco in cigarettes that causes cancer. Traditional cigarettes contain a laundry list of chemicals that are proven harmful, and e-cigarettes have some of these same chemicals.” (Center4research.org)

The body’s reaction to many of the chemicals in traditional cigarette smoke causes long-lasting inflammation, which in turn leads to chronic diseases like bronchitis, emphysema, and heart disease.

There are no long-term studies to back up claims that the vapor from e-cigarettes is less harmful than conventional smoke. Cancer takes years to develop, and e-cigarettes were only very recently introduced to the United States. It is almost impossible to determine if a product increases a person’s risk of cancer or not until the product has been around for at least 15-20 years.

Meaning it is not logical to prohibit the sales of this product, when traditional cigarettes are worse with more cancer causing ingredients than electronic cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes may not be the healthiest alternative, but it is better for chronic smokers in the short-term to quit cigarettes all together and for those who choose to not quit, but to continue the habit. In addition, you can purchase nicotine free liquid to vape which isn’t an option with traditional cigarettes—you can control the amount you intake. Instead of viewing electronic cigarettes as a negative, we need to look at the positives it brings. I personally used to smoke a pack a day and now, I vape and have been decreasing my nicotine intake to wean myself off of this addiction. E-cigarettes aren’t thought of as 100% safe, but most experts think they’re less dangerous than cigarettes, says Neal Benowitz, MD, a nicotine researcher at the University of California at San Francisco. Cigarette smoking kills almost half a million people a year in the United States. Most of the harm comes from the thousands of chemicals that are burned and inhaled in the smoke, he explains. E-cigs don’t burn, so people aren’t as exposed to those toxins. A 2015 expert review from Public Health England estimated e-cigs are 95% less harmful than the real thing.

That figure is controversial and might be a little high, says Kenneth Warner, a tobacco policy researcher at the University of Michigan. But, he adds, “The worst critics of e-cigarettes would probably argue they’re a half to two-thirds less dangerous. But from a practical view, they’re probably on the order of 80% to 85% less dangerous, at least.” With this evidence it proves that vaping is indeed safer for the people around you which is a big concern with traditional cigarettes because secondhand smoke causes cancer. Some states and communities that ban smoking in public places also ban vaping. But, Warner says, while the danger from secondhand vapor isn’t zero, “it’s probably very low.”

Instead of outright prohibiting these sales, we need to let the scientists do their research. We already know from short-term studies and year long studies that electronic cigarettes are safer because of the lack of secondhand smoke. But, we need to determine all the effects of this product over time. Also, CDC stats on teen smoking show that while use of e-cigs went up to 24% in 2015, cigarette smoking dropped to an historic low -- to just under 11%. Which is astounding because traditional cigarettes cause cancer to not just yourself, but to those around you while electronic cigarettes have lower risk with less cancer causing ingredients. Cigarette

smoke is genuinely nasty stuff. It contains about 70 carcinogens, as well as carbon monoxide (a poison), particulates, toxic heavy metals such as cadmium and arsenic, oxidising chemicals and assorted other organic compounds. This points to at least one clear conclusion—whether it is harmless or only moderately bad for you, vaping is almost certainly safer than smoking.



Chair Mizuno, vice chair Kobayashi and members of the Health committee

My name is Scott Stensrud and I'm from Kapolei. I'm here in strong support of HB276.

I've spent most of my 28 year years here in Hawaii as a professional and volunteer working with youth. As they can't speak for themselves, as they are in school, I'm here to speak on their behalf.

The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting youth, they know that 90% of current tobacco users started before the age of 18. They also know that flavors hook kids. 81% of youth who ever have used a tobacco product report having started with a flavored product. In 2009 most combustible cigarette flavors were banned, back then they never imagined e-cigarettes would become an epidemic with youth in large part due to the flavors, now estimated to be more than 15,500 and counting. With flavors like Hawaiian Punch, Hawaiian Sweet roll, Slamin Snow Cone and Hawaiian POG they are not only obviously targeting kids but they are targeting keiki in Hawaii!

By ending the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco in Hawaii our youth have a much better chance at remaining tobacco free and withstanding the millions of dollars the tobacco industry spends to attract them. In addition a 2018 study showed that more than 3 out of every 4 youth- (78%) flavored e-cigarette users said that they would not use an e-cigarette if it was not available in a flavored form (eg, candy, fruit, mint/menthol, etc.) Source: Harrell et al. Page 3 Tob Regul Sci. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2018 April 01.

While some adults claim to have used candy flavored e-cigarettes to stop smoking I'd like to end by paraphrase Brian King from the CDC, who spoke at a recent conference in Hawaii:

The health risks for youth addicted to nicotine in the numbers we are seeing for their generation far outweighs any potential health benefits of adults using ESDs vs cigarettes. So even if there is some health benefit for adults who are able to make that switch, which is not proven, it doesn't matter if so many kids are now addicted who would never have smoked cigarettes in the first place. Adults will still have access to non-flavored products if they choose. And when it comes to flavored vs non-flavored products, studies have shown it matters far less to adults than to youth.

I strongly support HB276 without changes. The health of our Keiki depends on it.

Thank you  
Scott Stensrud

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:00:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Flavors are a very important part of the success story of vapor products in getting thousands of island residents off of cigarettes. Throughout my life I have never seen anything more effective at helping people stop smoking. Vaping is estimated to be at least 95% less risky than smoking, so this is a huge win for public health.

As a practical matter, flavor bans are unenforceable. Almost all eliquid is artificially flavored, including tobacco eliquids. Thus to define what a "tobacco flavor" is will have to identify specific chemical compounds that make up the flavor. Judging what those compounds are and measuring them will be effectively impossible and very expensive to even attempt.

Hello, my name is Dylan Catian, I am a senior at Kalani high school and currently live in Palolo Valley. I am testifying in strong support of measure HB276.

Starting back in middle school I began to notice my peers using these eccentric devices known as e-cigarettes, not knowing exactly what they were. Throughout my time as a 13-year old middle school student, up to today, e-cigarettes have evolved and grown exponentially. New incognito devices such as the juul have become the norm, making vaping a casual task among my peers at Kalani, and the entirety of Hawaii's students. During school, it is almost assured that the bathrooms will smell like a newly opened candy shop. These candy-like flavors are the things attracting kids to vaping. The flavors entice kids, making it easier to get addicted. However, they do not know that with the e-liquid they are inhaling things like: nickel, tin, diacetyl, a chemical linked to lung cancer, and nicotine.

As a member of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii's Youth Council I'm trying to make a difference with my friends, but we are no match for the tobacco industry. But that didn't stop us. We have made presentations to organizations across the state, and now have over 100 organizations and community leaders endorsing a call to end flavored tobacco in Hawaii. Some notable organizations being:

**HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS**

'Ohana Health Plan

Adventist Health – Castle

Akamai Recovery Maui

American Academy of Pediatrics – Hawaii Chapter

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Pharmacist's Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blue Zones Project

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii

Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Get Fit Kauai

Hamakua Kohala Health Centers

Hana Lima Physical Therapy

Hawaii Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (HAHPERD)

Hawaii COPD Coalition

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

Hawai'i Nurses' Association

Hawaii Pacific Health

Hawaii Public Health Association

Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Hui Malama Ola Na OIwi

I Ola Lahui

Kaho'omiki; Hawaii Council of Physical Activity and Nutrition

Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children

Kauai Rural Health Association

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

Lāna'i Community Health Center

National Community Pharmacist Association – Hawaii Student Chapter

Papa Ola Lōkahi

Pediatric Therapies Hawaii

Project Vision Hawai'i

Tobacco Prevention Project, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

West Hawaii Community Health Center

## **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)

Baldwin HS Peer Education

Hale 'Ōpio Kaua'i Inc.

Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA)

Hui Ola Pono (UH Public Health's Student Organization)

Kauai Path Inc.

Kiwanis Club of the Valley Island

Konawaena HS Wellness Committee

Moanalua HS Peer Education Program

Pacific American Foundation

Pono Hawaii Initiative

The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park-Beach Cleanup Team

Waiakea High School PTSA

Waipahu Int. Youth for Safety Club

We Are One Inc.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS & GOVERNMENT**

Sen. Stanley Chang

Rep. Stacelynn Eli

Rep. Sharon Har

Maui County Councilmember Kelly King

Hawai'i County Councilmember Sue Lee Loy

Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board #34

Mililani/Waipio/Melemanu Neighborhood Board #25

Waipahu Neighborhood Board #22

County of Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

**HEALTH & COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Tina Alcain

Frank R. Baum, M.D.

Danielle Bergan

Janet Berreman, M.D.

Gregg Brenes, pastor

Clifford Chang, MPH

Valerie Chang, JD

Jeffrey H. Chester, DO

Carmen Cook, LMFT

Joan Craft, RN

Keawe Kaholokula. PhD

Gary Hooser

Carol R. Ignacio

Colleen F Inouye, M.D.

Mark Levin, J.D.

Jasmin Kiernan, RN

Bryan Mih, M.D.

Michael Robinson, MBA, MA

Janice Shishido

Elizabeth K. Tam, M.D.

Catherine Taschner, J.D.

Jill Tokuda

John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW

Linda Weiner, M.D.

Cassiopia Yamashita

## **SCHOOLS**

Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School

Maui Preparatory Academy

Mid Pacific Institute



Sacred Hearts Academy

Saint Louis Schools

Waiakea High School

**BUSINESSES**

Emma Whitney Photography

Ganesha Body Piercing

Heartlight Montessori Homeschool

Home Remedies Interior Design

Paia Tattoo Parlor

The Root Cellar Studio Maui

I am in strong support of measure HB276 because we cannot let these candy flavored tobacco products continue to addict my friends and peers any longer.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:25:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Henry I am a former smoker of 18 year's, I oppose HB276, for the simple fact that this bill is unfair in the statement of Flavors is the reason of being the root cause of the teenage vaping epidemic is false, as a former smoker of traditional combustible cigarettes, vaping and its Flavors has helped myself, family members and friends of legal smoking and vaping age whether it be State age laws or federal to stay away from and stop smoking cigarettes, since I've quit smoking and started vaping having flavors to enjoy as a law abiding citizen while vaping should be a right that shouldn't be taken away to legal adults. As an adult we should have a choice to vape a flavor!! The vaping epidemic in Hawaii and the USA of teenager are because of certain devices like "Juul" and similar ones like it being easily accessible through gas stations, convenience stores ect, at least 90% of actual vape shops have taken part in sales to minors prior to laws being in place it started from 18 years of age now in some states like here in Hawaii its 21, these vape shops, manufactures and companies who follow the rules will be getting punished for the fact that the reasons behind the epidemic isn't being directed toward. The product that most of the vaping community disagrees with due to the accessibility in gas stations & convenience stores is what most teens are using because place other than vape shops dont take it seriously when asking for ID. There should be more stings to help aid the root cause & not punishing responsible Vape shops and adults. By taking away something "flavors" vaping Eliquids ect that has made a huge impact by lessing the amount of Traditional tobacco cigarette use state and nation wide, will greatly impact citizens to go back to combustible cigarettes which is definitely more toxic due to the fact my own Doctor has told me since I quit smoking cigarettes my health is much better in comparison.

Attachment "A1" is a letter from The FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb. It states that the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has contributed to a decline of combustible tobacco, which is known to cause cancer. It also clearly states that it intends on limiting flavored cigarettes to age restricted stores, or areas.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your your time

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:40:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have been smoking cigarettes for almost 20 years and I have completely quit by vaping candy flavored e-liquid. I oppose this bill because vaping actually helped me quit smoking, when nothing else did.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:10:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valerie Luna-Gaballo	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Flavored tobacco products such as e-liquid helped my husband who has been smoking cigarettes for almost 20 years, quit and has been healthier since. It also makes it easier for him to be around our kids because the smell of vaping does not leave a nasty smell lingering on him, like cigarettes used to do.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:16:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adrian-Marie Luna-Gaballo	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Flavored tobacco products such as e-liquid helped my father who has been smoking cigarettes for almost 20 years, quit and has been healthier since. It also makes it easier for him to be around us kids because the smell of vaping does not leave a nasty smell lingering on him, like cigarettes used to do.



Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and the members of the Health Committee,

My name is Mariah Ramo and I attend Waipahu Intermediate School. I'm a member of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii's Youth Council. I'm writing today to support HB276 relating to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products.

I have family members that use flavored e-liquid. Whenever I open our refrigerator, I see a bottle of vape liquid that they have in stock. When we go to a mall, they check out the newly flavored juice. At that time, I was still a pre-teen so I was clueless about the products they used. However, I've been doing a lot of research about the marketing techniques that tobacco companies use and the results were shocking! Their main target is the youth, more specifically high school students. It turned out that the one tiny bottle I saw in the fridge is being used by many of my peers. At my school, there's no place where you can't smell a faint sweet scent coming from students smoking everywhere. They do it before school, during passing periods, inside classrooms, recess, lunch, and after school. I recently experienced seeing students throw e-liquid bottles across the room and exchange with one another when the teacher wasn't looking. They would then lay their heads down on the table, and smoke to avoid being caught by an adult. One time, I smelt a cotton candy scent that flowed towards me and saw a person that smoked but he convinced the teacher that it was just candy. This is an epidemic that needs to be stopped.

The numbers tell the story, 81% of kids nationwide use a flavored tobacco product as their introduction to tobacco, including vaping and 30% of youth vapers start using combustible tobacco within 60 days of starting to vape and 90% of current smokers started before the age of 18. It's clear to the members of our Youth Council that banning flavored tobacco is key to breaking this cycle. Flavored tobacco has no place in Hawaii and we hope you feel the same.

We don't need flavored tobacco to entice youth into starting a potentially life-long addiction to nicotine. I ask that you please vote in favor of HB276 and help to ban the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii's keiki safe.

Sincerely,

Mariah Ramo  
Waipahu Intermediate School  
Youth Council  
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:36:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Is this unjust bill designed just to piss off voters that smoke?

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:46:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Castro	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I fully support this ban, particular on the sale of e-cigarette tobacco. Working at a high school, I see the students attempt to sneak in a vape here and there, and know that the use off campus is even worse. They are not allowed to have these products, but they get a hold of it and definitely enjoy the taste of the flavors that they can choose from, making it even more lucrative. The health risks to the youth (and adults) are not worth it, and sales should be banned.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:40:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mia Tran	The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Mia and I am writing to support this bill. As a student pharmacist and a pharmacy intern, I believe that flavor tobacco products should be regulated more strictly to prevent any misuse by children and teenager for their health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mia Tran

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:01:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Don't take away the flavors I like.

January 30, 2019

TO: Chair John M. Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health

FROM: Cigar Association of America, Inc.  
(William Goo)

RE: **HB 276** - Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products  
Hearing Date: January 31, 2019  
Time: 9:30 am

My name is William Goo. I represent the Cigar Association of America, Inc. (CAA).

CAA **opposes HB 276** which seeks to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products including cigars. The primary focus of this bill is to address the rising use of flavored tobacco products especially in electronic smoking devices by youth in Hawaii. Cigars are primarily the choice and custom of mature, responsible and informed adults. Cigars are not the tobacco product of choice of Hawaii's youth. Any ban on flavored tobacco products should exclude cigars.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:18:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Monika Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

It's my choice what favor I like, not the damn governments!

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:28:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:32:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Osterstock	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

The marketing of flavored tobacco products will only worsen our current epidemic of vaping in schools. As a high school student, I have seen so many of my friends and classmates vape without any notion of consequences. Because these products are being marketed to them, and there are certainly ways to acquire vaping supplies, the teenagers are not seeing that these are bad for them. The banning of flavored vape products will hopefully direct them to a more adult audience, or at least make them less desirable.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:54:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:55:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:57:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:10:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:10:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

For 20 years I smoked menthol cigarettes, 7 years ago I quit using Strawberry Flavored Ejuice.

As an Adult, I have the right to choose to what I consume, drink or smoke.

I agree that no one under 21 should smoke, vape or drink alcohol. We have laws that prohibit underage to purchase.

We as adults have the choice what flavor coffee, beer, mixed drinks, flavor wine. That is our choice.

Passing HB276 will have a negative affect. This ban will be like banning fireworks. Consumers will be buying flavored tobacco in the black market. No control of sale to underage will be upheld.

Please oppose HB276

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:27:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony McCurdy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I'm writing to you as a parent, teacher and community member in support of this legislation. My daughters attend Kapolei High School and they are exposed on a daily basis to students who vape on campus. I see students leaving campus vaping, I see them driving or as passengers vaping, and parents vaping around small children in vehicles or closed spaces. As a teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach, I see students vaping all the time, especially off campus, but I've had 2 students myself I've caught vaping right outside of my classroom. Even if they're not vaping at school, I know they're vaping off campus because I overhear their conversations. Our administration recently told me that disciplinary actions for vaping have gone up by 821% in the last 2 years alone at James Campbell High School. This is an epidemic. This legislation will go a long way towards reducing the number of children and youth vaping or using tobacco products. This is about our keiki and I support this legislation wholeheartedly and urge you to vote Yes.

**HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products**

**Position: Strong Support**

01-30-19

The way I see it is that “the industry” says it wants to keep tobacco out of the hands of kids, but they don’t want to do anything about it and even market to kids with “candy-flavored tobacco”. The surest proof that candy-flavored tobacco is infiltrating our schools is from the DOE. With 168,000 young people in our schools and with 42% of all high school students and 27% of middle schoolers reporting ever having used an “electronic vaping product” in 2017, there is an urgent need to act. All of our kids, statewide, deserve protection from a lifetime of addiction.

John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW, LSW

51 Kuula Street

Kahului, HI 96732-2906

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:31:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Juice Uce	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:40:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:47:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I was a heavy cigarette smoker for 6 years and vaping flavored products helped me quit smoking completely if I was only able to vape non flavored product I wouldn't have been able to quit cigarettes. I have been cigarette free for 3 years.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:05:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Don't ban the flavors that people like. Kids can't buy them because they are under 21. The bill writers' argument that kids buy and use the products is total bullshit.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:38:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

i stop smoking cigarettes becuase of the ecig and i started smoing at a young age, i also save alot of money from it. so please dont band it....

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:50:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris C.K. Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:07:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Wayne Garcia. I have been a smoker for well over 15+ years. I quit smoking traditional cigarettes because of vaping. I made the choice to switch which came through the recommendation of my personal care physician. I found that choosing to vape has made a big impact in my life. My health is heading in the right path because of my choice. I would have never chosen to switch if the choice was limited to just one flavor. I love that as an adult i can choose a flavor other than tobacco. I oppose this bill to ban flavored tobacco, eliquids included. I have also read recently a letter from the commissioner of the FDA Scott Gottlieb that states the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has contributed to the decline of combustible tobacco, which is known to cause cancer. It also states clearly that it intends on limiting flavored cigarettes to age restricted stores, or areas.

Much Mahalo for your time.

Wayne Garcia

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:09:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:13:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Buller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a high school teacher on Molokai and witnessing a huge increase in the use of flavored tobacco products by high school students I am in support of HB 276 to prohibit flavored tobacco products because their sole purpose is to attract and create addiction to tobacco products. Flavored tobacco products are poison, as all tobacco products are poisonous.

As an individual in support of HB 276.

Laura Buller

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:14:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:19:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elise Carmody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill.

I started smoking when I was 12. If you are at all familiar with the tobacco trials of the 1980-90's the tobacco companies intentionally marketed to children because their research showed that pre and teenage people were more susceptible to nicotine addiction than adults.

One of the ways they marketed to young people was with flavored cigarettes.

This is just history repeating itself. The vaping industry is using flavored products to attract young users who are more susceptible to nicotine addiction and thereby becoming life-long customers.

Hawaii has a history of attempting to protect young people from this addiction. "On November 23, 1998, Hawaii, along with 45 other states that had filed similar actions against the tobacco companies, entered into a "global" settlement. Under the Master settlement agreement ("MSA"), which memorialized the "global" settlement, the tobacco companies agreed to take steps aimed at reducing or eliminating tobacco use by minors and educating the public at large about the dangers of tobacco use. MSA, at 18-47, available at <http://www.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/litigation> (Nov. 1998)."

Proponents will say that tobacco and vaping products are illegal for persons under 21. That is true and has been true for many years. However, it has never stopped a young person from obtaining tobacco.

Unavailability of flavored products will make vaping less attractive to young people and hopefully save many from years of ill health due to addiction to nicotine.



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:30:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As an ex smoker of traditional tobacco cigarettes for 8 years, seeing this bill come about is very upsetting. The progress myself and so many others will be negatively impacted due to the fact off higher ups not taking in consideration the postive impact weve all made on our lives with the help of vaping. Even if something is 5% healthier for you than the opposition wouldnt that be a gained improvement for itself. There are so many other important factors Hawaii as a state should be concerned with like not enough housing for those of us that call this place "HOME." Example: General Retail Shopping Stores like Walmart or Target have alcohol at kid reach level even though you must be 21 to purchase. Did I forget to mention the Pinnacle Cotton Candy flavor which as we all know kids love Cotton Candy! Its disturbing to think of the attitudes and outlook of those who are supposed to represent us! The vape shops ive seen all have there products behind a glass case or behind the sales workers themselves not easily available for a underage child to get there hands on. Almost every shop ive seen in Hawaii has a "must be 21" to purchase anything at this establishment already set in place. there is no right justification for taking away flavored vape products for someone who is already of age and just trying to better themselves. If they had these products 40-60 years back alot of my family could have had less health problems that what they are facing today and im glad that i transtioned over into a helathier lifestyle for not only myself but my family. Dont take away the thing helping so many people quit tradational tobacco just for a financial gain? It always seems to boil down to the financial standpoint, so my opinion follow the legal recreational use of marijuana like so many other states have and leave vaping to help those who the big tobacco industry have already taken so much from!  
Mahalo

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:57:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Flavored tobacco products such as e-liquid helped many who has been smoking cigarettes for many years, quit and have been living healthier lives since. Plus, almost all e-liquids are approved by the FDA which makes them legal and not harmful to people.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:08:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB276 due to having past experince with tabacoo chewing and it affeced my gums, and it its a lot more harmful. I've stopped tabacoo usage using vape products, and i feel that it is a healthier decsion and a cleaner lifestyle. Also it is not harmful for for any second hand smoke and it will not affect your neighbor.

**From:** [Gerald Honma](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 1:12:47 PM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

Potential Harm Reduction Should Be Considered - E-vapor category is relatively new, some public health and tobacco control researchers have reached the preliminary conclusion that e-vapor products may present a compelling risk reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Mitch Zeller, Director of the Center for Tobacco Products at FDA, along with many scientific experts, has recognized the promise tobacco harm reduction and potentially reduced risk products may hold for public health. In a recent letter to the World Health Organization, 53 global experts on nicotine policy stated that policies that are excessively restrictive or burdensome on lower risk products can have the unintended consequence of protecting cigarettes from competition from less hazardous alternatives and cause harm as a result. In a recent survey of 4,618 e-vapor consumers, almost half of participants said that a lack of variety of flavors would make reducing or completely switching from smoking cigarettes less likely.

Approximately 90% of adult e-vapor consumers report using flavored products.<sup>9</sup> Hawaii should respect the preferences of adult consumers to use flavored products, especially when they could play a role in reducing tobacco-related harm. We believe regulators and legislators should tailor public policies to reflect the uniqueness of this category, including the fact that these products emit vapor, not smoke.

A ban on characterizing flavors could contribute to the growth of the “Do-It-Yourself” DIY involves purchasing separately, and then mixing, liquid nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavors to make an e-liquid for an open device. Details on how to mix flavors and liquid nicotine are readily available online. Materials for DIY – some of which are of unknown quality and origin – are inexpensive and widely available. FDA has not yet explored issues raised by the separate sale, and home-mixing, of nicotine and flavorings.

21 Age Restriction Already in Place. Hawaii already has put a 21 and older ban on sales of vapor products in place. Kids should not use any nicotine product and access to such products, including those with characterizing flavors. No manufacturer should use children’s cartoons or youth-oriented candy trademarks to market their products. When its rulemaking is final, FDA will have comprehensive authority over the sale and marketing of all tobacco and tobacco-derived nicotine products. This authority includes the ability to take further action as required to prevent illegal underage purchase.

This ban would essential destroy the vapor industry as all flavors -

even the “natural tobacco flavor” mentioned in the bill are the results of flavoring. This means all vapor products would be illegal if this bill passes. I am sure this is not what you meant to do with this bill, and its result would mean the lose of my business and creation of a black market and increased online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Gerald Honma  
Smokeless Hawaii Enterprises

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:31:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As the FDA studies and other third party studies have proven it's not the flavors that attract people to tobacco products. Many of the people that use flavored e-liquid are well over 21 years old. This is kind of like saying that candy bars are the cause of diabetes and we need to ban the sale of candy. People in the United States of America should be able to make their own decisions on what they want to put into their bodies. I'm 40 years old and a vape strawberry/banana flavored e-liquid with a low nicotine level of 3mg. I enjoy vaping and feel like it's my right to vape whatever flavor I want, with or without nicotine. If you were to raise the tax I would simply order it online instead of going to my local vape store. So all this will do is put local companies out of business and pump up other states revenue from online sales. I don't see how this accomplishes anything good in our state.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:41:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear House and Senete commitees,

Please do not destroy our local vaping industries w/ these unfair bills and laws.

This will only hurt our local economy and do nothing to prevent teenage use of vaping products here in Hawaii. You will not be able to stop online sales or be able to do age verifacation online.

Also you would be opening up a huge black market of DIY E-Juice kits, And Illegal back yard sales of unregulated dirty E-Juices.

Please just wait for Federal Regulations, So that we do not have to compete w/ out of state (online sales and illegal back yard E-Juices.

Thank You,

Gerald Honma

Smokeless Hawaii Enterprises

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:39:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:42:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Mandado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I'm a teacher in Ewa Beach. I strongly support this house bill to ban flavored tobacco. As an educator, I know how much these items negatively impact students' lives. Many of these flavored tobacco products are targeted towards teenagers. We need to get these products away from children. We need to continue building healthy children for the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:02:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, and here is why. I was a heavy smoker for years. 3 years ago I stopped by a vape shop and the flavors they had to offer opened my horizon to cancer sticks. I started vaping mid 2016, and these happy nice flavors helped me a lot. There is no reason to send millions of people now and hundred thousand businesses down the drain. Just because Tobacco companies are losing money we don't need to suffer. I oppose this bill mainly because it helped me and millions of other people like me.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:29:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
thomas wills	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony:

Date: January 30, 2019

To: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong support of HB 276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Conference Room 329

I strongly support HB 276, which would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products.

I support this bill because previous research has shown that flavorings make tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, attractive to adolescents. Recent data from Hawaii and other states have shown that e-cigarette use is quite prevalent among school students, even among middle school students who are 12-14 years of age. This is resulting in a high rate of addiction to nicotine, which was previously not known in Hawaii because rates of cigarette smoking were relatively low and the high taxes on cigarettes in Hawaii result in less frequent smoking among students who do smoke. It looks like e-cigarettes are changing this situation and that a number of students may graduate from school being addicted to nicotine.

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. Using e-cigarettes is related to initiation of cigarette smoking among previous nonsmokers, hence is contributing to nicotine addiction through another mechanism. It is also related to asthma and bronchitis.

Recent authoritative articles by physicians and pharmacologists in the New England Journal of Medicine have emphasized that nicotine is as addictive as heroin, that flavored tobacco products increase the likelihood of adolescents becoming addicted, and that there is increasing evidence of harmful respiratory effects from e-cigarette vapor. (See, for example, "The Dangerous Flavors of E-Cigarettes," New England Journal, January 30, 2019.) Many public health experts have noted that the current epidemic of e-cigarette use among adolescents is creating risk for public health and that steps should be taken to reduce use among teenagers. All the research I have seen indicates that eliminating flavorings would be a large and effective step toward this goal.

I have heard some people argue that the FDA is going to take action against flavorings soon.

I don't believe it. I have heard similar arguments for years about tobacco policy. The tobacco companies agreed in 2006 to run ads about the risks of cigarette smoking and nicotine addiction, but IT TOOK 12 YEARS before they finally agreed to do this. (You are just seeing the se ads in the newspapers now.) The FDA tried to use its legal authority to put graphic warning labels on cigarette packages beginning in 2010, but THIS NEVER HAPPENED because the tobacco companies kept filing lawsuits against it. The writing on the wall is that if FDA tries to take action against flavored tobacco products, the tobacco companies will just do the same thing all over again and delay action for 10 or 20 years. Meanwhile a new generation of teenagers will become addicted to nicotine.

For the reasons given above, I strongly support HB 276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas A. Wills, Ph.D.

Director, Cancer Prevention in the Pacific Program

University of Hawaii Cancer Center

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:55:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brenden Hang-Arcio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a former smoker who has used fruit and candy as well as menthol flavored e-liquids to quit smoking. If I hadn't found these flavors I would still be smoking to this day. My father who also has smoked for well over 25 years, now uses menthol and grape flavored e-liquids instead of a pack a day habit. He has not smoked in over 5 years. I feel that taking away flavors will negatively impact the lives of current e-cigarette users, who are former long term smokers. Yes we do need to find a way to stop underaged users from getting their hands on these products but a flavor ban is not one that I will support. I do not like the taste of tobacco and would not like to be using a plain tobacco flavored e-liquid. At that point I may as well be smoking cigarettes again. Thank you for your time.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 4:18:14 PM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jake J. Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 4:58:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hi my name is Alex Tom i quit smoking because of vaping and it turned my whole life in the right direction as far as health, i beleive this bill is unfair to the responsible adults that have found something that is million times better than smoking thanks for your time Aloha

Alex Tom

alex@hilyfevaporz.com



**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:21:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB276 as it would possibly make me resort back to cigarettes and drugs.

vapig has helped me to not use recreational drugs by taking this away from us it would cause more people to live unhealthier life.

**LATE**

Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM  
Conference Room 329

**House Committee on Health**

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 276  
Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products**

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My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

**I write in support of HB 276** would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products effective as of January 1, 2020.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States and in Hawai'i. Tobacco use is a serious public health problem in terms of the human suffering and loss of life it causes, as well as the financial burden it imposes on society and our healthcare system. Annually, \$526,000,000 in health care costs are directly attributed to smoking in the State. Flavored tobacco products promote youth initiation of tobacco use and help young occasional smokers become daily smokers by reducing or masking the natural harshness and taste of tobacco smoke, thereby increasing the appeal of tobacco products. Menthol, in particular, is used by the tobacco industry because it has a cooling and numbing effect and can reduce the throat irritation from smoking, thus making menthol cigarettes an appealing option for youth who are initiating tobacco use. Candy and fruit flavors improve the taste and reduce the harshness of tobacco products, making them more appealing and easier for beginners to try tobacco products and ultimately become addicted. The popularity of electronic cigarettes among youth is concerning, as these products contain nicotine.

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 Hawaii have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant

public health gains through our Tobacco 21 law and tobacco youth access laws. 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. Marketing strategies by the tobacco industry and electronic smoking device industry have significantly increased the introduction and marketing of flavored non-cigarette tobacco products, especially ESDs. Products are glamorized in order to appeal to our youth, using flavors such as candy, fruit, chocolate, mint, Kona coffee, Maui Mango, Shaka strawberry, and Moloka'i hot bread.

Recognizing the increasing public health concerns of flavored tobacco products, other jurisdictions have enacted bans on the sale of those products. Hawaii should also take the step to impose a similar ban.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:27:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

You don't like things to have flavor. You haters need to get a life.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:37:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose the bill "HB276". This would be unfair to me as a consumer, whom has been smoking cigarettes for 5 years and recently quit by vaping sweet and fruity FLAVORED e-liquid. Taking away the different flavors would defeat the purpose of me quitting one of my biggest goals. Consuming such a generous amount of tobacco has only brought negative effects on my health in general.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:46:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

i should be able to choose my flavors



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org



Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President  
Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH

RE: HB 276 - RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 276**, banning the sale of flavored tobacco products.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association is the exclusive representative of the state's 13,700 public school teachers. As the local affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association. This measure would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products in the state of Hawaii starting on 1/1/2020.

Flavored tobacco products have been proven as the entry point for youth to start smoking. According to the FDA's 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey over two-thirds (67.8 percent) are using flavored e-cigarettes, which is a significant increase from 2017. The 2017 CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System reported 8.1% of high school students smoked on at least one day in the past 30 days.

Locally the Hawaii's Youth Risk Behavior Survey of public high school students disclosed the following:

over 42% of Hawaii high school students have tried using vapor products;  
over 25% of Hawaii high school students indicated that they are regular users; and  
neighbor islands high school students reporting even higher numbers with over 31% of Kauai students, over 32% of Maui students, and over 34% of Hawaii county students reported to be regular users.

This data is why the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support HB 276**.

January 31, 2019

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO  
HOUSE BILL 276, RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

House Committee on Health  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee,

Thank you for providing Par Hawaii with this opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products. My name is Lance Tanaka, director of government and public affairs for Par Hawaii, the leading supplier of petroleum products and transportation fuels in the Islands. Par Hawaii operates a network of retail fueling and convenience-store outlets throughout the state under the Hele, 76 and nomnom brands.

HB 276 bans the sale of flavored tobacco products in Hawaii, effective January 1, 2020. **Par Hawaii respectfully opposes HB 276 as drafted.**

Par Hawaii would like to offer the following comments for the committee's consideration:

- Hawaii law already makes it unlawful for a retailer to sell tobacco products—including menthol-flavored products—to anyone under the age of 21.
- Menthol-flavored tobacco products make up the larger share of sales in Hawaii compared to non-menthol products. In addition to lowering sales for licensed retailers, reduced sales mean lower tax revenue for the State.

Par Hawaii asks the committee to consider these comments before passing this measure. We are open to further discussing the merits of HB 276 with proponents of the bill, and appreciate the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:28:31 PM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
teresa	Aloha e liquids	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:23:43 PM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Iriarte	Hi Lyfe Vaporz,LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Robin Iriarte, I oppose HB276. In reference to some of the states that have introduced and passed the bills banning and regulating sales of flavored tobacco products including menthol. This is something that should be look at closely. Banning the flavors as means of trying to get people to quit smoking or vaping is not going to generate money for all of the research needed for vaping. Taxing vaping will generate money for our state but by taking that away it won't. we have many customers whom have used vaping as an alternative to smoking and using conventional drugs ir alcohol. I believe by doing this will cause a lot of people to resort to living The Vape industry does have numerous flavor e-liquids that yes taste good but are not gauged to adolescents and teenagers. These flavors are created to give a bit of diversity instead of your traditional tobacco flavors. These flavors are food grade as well as kosher grade. They may be consumed without nicotine. Having flavored e-liquids has been proven to help individuals to kick their bad habits of smoking traditional cigarettes, as well as other conventional drugs and alcoholism. While doing some other research, I have found that there is problem selling alcohol that exhibits pictures of fruits, desserts, and drinks that resemble candies, etc. Why would it also be okay to have these such flavors promoted in caffeinated and non-caffeinated drinks that are also unhealthy okay? Alcoholism is a huge epidemic that we deal with every day, this can cause a person to possibly harm themselves or others while being intoxicated. Being that these drinks are flavored in such ways would encourage them to want to drink more.

In reference to the saying of packaging resembling children's candies such as Jolly Ranchers and sour patch kids, those companies have already complied with regulations and I feel that it should not be brought up in this hearing.

**LATE**



Hawaii COPD Coalition  
700 Richards St., Suite 2410  
Honolulu, HI 96813

[Valerie@hawaiicopd.org](mailto:Valerie@hawaiicopd.org)

(808)699-9839

**LATE TESTIMONY**

January 30, 2019

Honorable Chair Representative John M. Mizuno  
Honorable Vice-Chair Representative Bertrand Kobayashi  
Members of the Health Committee

RE: Strong Support of HB276, banning sale of all flavored tobacco products **including** menthol and mint in Hawaii

Dear Representative Mizuno, Kobayashi and members of the Health Committee:

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children of our state and our entire state as well. Please vote in favor of HB276, banning all flavored tobacco products including menthol and mint in Hawaii.

I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition and serve 46,015 Hawaii adults diagnosed with COPD in Hawaii (with an estimated equal number still undiagnosed). Since 2007, I have worked in Hawaii, nationally and internationally with countless people who have had their lungs and lives horribly affected by tobacco and nicotine.

We are grateful that this legislature has been the first in the nation to pass legislation banning the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to people under 21 in Hawaii. Unfortunately, that doesn't stem the growing epidemic of young people and adults in our state who are smoking electronic smoking devices, commonly referred to as ESDs, e-cigs, or vaping.

With 168,000 young people in our schools and with 42% of all high school students and 27% of middle schoolers reporting ever having used an "electronic vaping product" in 2017, we have an urgent need to act. All our young people deserve protection from a lifetime of addiction.

While the FDA's proposed plan aims to restrict the sale of flavored e-cigarettes in convenience stores and gas stations, it still allows e-cigarette products to stay on the market and online without review by the FDA until August 2022. We know rulemaking at the federal level often takes a long time which is why state-level action on menthol and other flavored products is

needed now. We can't wait to protect our keiki. Additionally, the new proposed policies do not address flavors in any form of smokeless tobacco or hookah.

Menthol has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine, making menthol cigarettes a popular starter product. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the African American community. In Hawaii, 78% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander smokers use menthol cigarettes. In the Philippines, market share of menthol cigarettes was 55%. The consequences of this are that while nicotine and tobacco addiction are deadly for everyone, Native Hawaiians and Filipinos die at higher rates of lung cancer than other groups.

Please help protect the lungs and lives of our children from these very harmful products that are spreading virally in our schools, from elementary through high school and beyond. We urge you to please vote in favor of HB276 and pass it out of committee so it can become law. The Hawaii COPD Coalition thanks you very much for your careful consideration of this most important and timely bill.

Very truly yours,

***Valerie Chang***

Valerie Chang  
Executive Director



**LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
January 31, 2019**

**Re: HB 276 Relating to Health**

Good morning Chairperson Mizuno and members of the House Committee on Health. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

We OPPOSE HB 276 Relating to Health that would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products. This bill would essentially ban all electronic vapor products and e-liquids, compel people to purchase these goods online or try to make it themselves and force essentially force many small business who sells these items to shut down and leaving people out of work.

Currently Hawaii has a law in place that states persons have to be 21 years old or older to purchase electronic vaping devices, e-liquids and tobacco products. However adults that are 21 and older are able to purchase these items and enjoy them like menthol cigarettes or an electronic vaping device with favorite flavored e-liquid.

Furthermore, every electronic vaping device and e-liquid available worldwide is "flavored." Because they do not contain tobacco, electronic vaping devices has no "natural tobacco" taste, or any taste for that matter, without the addition of flavorings. These flavored e-liquids are enjoyed by many adults.

In addition, vapor products and e-liquids are NOT the same as a tobacco product. Electronic vaping devices contains NO tobacco and NO smoke is emitted when vaporized. The New England Journal of Medicine published an article this week that found that electronic vaping devices were nearly twice as effective as conventional nicotine replacement products, like patches and gum, for quitting smoking. The study was conducted in Britain and funded by the National Institute for Health Research and Cancer Research UK.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:49:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawaii Smokers Alliance is Strongly Opposed to HB276.

Anti-smoking lobby claims about youth buying these products is a falsehood and a lie. Someone should inform them that you have to BE 21 TO BUY THE PRODUCTS. By their same illogical train of thought, flavored alcoholic beverages should be banned so youth can't buy them and become an alcoholic. Oh wait, I forgot the anti-smoking lobbyists aren't getting paid off to say that about alcohol.

Committee members, I challenge you to walk down the street in your district and ask real people "does it matter to them if other people smoke regular or menthol". Ask 'em if they're "loosing sleep over the issue". I'd bet they would look at you like you were crazy. Then why on earth is this bill even given a hearing??

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:06:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm a previous smoker who used flavored liquids such as apple and menthol in e-cigarette devices to quit smoking. I oppose this ban because I had a hard time quitting smoking and these flavored liquids got me off of cigarettes.

1/29/2019

**LATE**

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

My husband started smoking at the age of 12 starting with menthol cigarettes. He ended up being a life-time smoker and died of smoking related disease at the age of 59. His mother, father, aunt also died from smoking related disease. This is a terrible legacy to leave, and prohibiting flavored tobacco products would go a long way to discouraging our youth from smoking.

Mahalo,  
MARILYN J. Gagen  
Kamuela, HI 96743



1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. I see this as an educator on the campus of the University of Hawai'i, where the number of students walking the campus while vaping is still increasing rapidly (and despite the campus permission having ended last year.)

While the circumstances on the campus may warrant your attention otherwise, those circumstances are simply the downstream impacts of the youth vaping epidemic. And studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Mark Levin  
Honolulu, HI 96822

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

As a pediatrician and medical director of the Kapi'olani Smokefree Families Program, I strongly support HB276, which prohibits the sale or distribution of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has strongly supported elimination of flavored tobacco products, including menthol. These products have been shown to be disproportionately used by young people, especially teenagers, as the menthol and other flavors make it easier to start using tobacco and nicotine.

These products are targeted towards our keiki with flavors such as cherry, raspberry, citrus, vanilla, chocolate, mint, and pineapple. The tobacco corporations have intentionally included menthol, which provides a soothing, cooling effect and is often seen in cough drops. Low doses of menthol in tobacco can reduce the painful and irritating effects on the lining of the nose, mouth, and airways, which allows smokers to inhale more easily. This makes it much easier for young people to initiate tobacco use.

Once young people are addicted to nicotine, it is extremely difficult to quit. By eliminating these products from Hawaii, we have the chance to improve the health of many, especially of our keiki.

On behalf of the keiki and young people of Hawaii, I urge you to pass HB276.

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Pediatrician

1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

Based on experience with my own minor-aged children, it is way too easy for them to purchase flavored tobacco products. I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Cheryl Reeser  
Makawao, HI 96768

1/29/2019

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Do your job and protect our keiki by passing this bill!!!!

Mahalo,  
Suzanne Fields  
Haiku, HI 96708

1/30/2019

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The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes. We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
JoAnn Yukimura  
Lihue, HI 96766

1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I am a pediatrician with more than 29 years of treating keiki in Hawaii. Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Cristeta Ancog  
Aiea, HI 96701

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. As a mom of four daughters, a RN, and your constituent, I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Alana Busekrus  
Kailua, HI 96734

1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

Aloha Honorable John Mizuno and Honorable Bert Kobayashi and esteemed members of the House Committee on Health,

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes. I know you are well informed about this public health crisis however please note ... Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Helen Barrow  
Makawao, HI 96768



1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association strongly supports HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction and Ora Health complications. We strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro  
Honolulu, HI 96821

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I am writing as an individual and public health professional in strong support of HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook our kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and urge you to pass it out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Michelle Tagorda  
Honolulu, HI 96826

1/29/2019

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Haleigh Romero  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

1/30/2019

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I am a teacher at a school with a high Native Hawaiian student population, and the problem is real. Recreational rebellion has evolved into addiction for some teens while others are unfairly exposed to second hand aerosol when they use the restroom. Most students are unaware of the present dangers and unknown long-term effects of e-cigarette use. In classroom discussions, most admit that without the flavorings, e-cigarette use would be less appealing and less attractive.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Brooke Holderbaum  
Makawao, HI 96768

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

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On behalf of the 92 member institutions of the Hawaii Assn. of Independent Schools, I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

In just a few years, Hawai'i has gone from being a state with one of the lowest percentages of teen cigarette-smoking to a state experiencing a major teen vaping epidemic. It is a lie that vaping is safer than smoking cigarettes - most vaping devices deliver more nicotine per container than several packs of cigarettes.

It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco products to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Philip Bossert  
Honolulu, HI 96817

1/29/2019

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As an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), I see everyday the effect that vaping and nicotine use in general is having on our kids. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm brain development. Using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control Mood, Impulse Control, Learning and Attention. The kids I work with already have enough problems in these areas. In addition, nicotine use in early adolescence causes changes in the brain that make life-long addiction much more likely for young vape users. We must work together to get nicotine out of the hands of our youth. Their lives literally depend on it.

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Linda Kim  
Honolulu, HI 97817

1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic, and the reason behind the youths decision to use these devices is because of it's flavored e-liquid. In 2014, roughly 70% of current youth smokers in the U.S used a flavored tobacco product in the past 30 days. Studies have also shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Menor  
Waipahu, HI 96797

1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes. As a High School teacher I know that "jewelling" is rampant in our schools. I can smell that sweet smell on many kids-but the kids don't believe that vaping is as bad as cigarette smoking.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Sharon Goldenberg  
Kihei, HI 96753



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

My name is David Cao and I am a student pharmacist. I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It is no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
David Cao  
Hilo, HI 96720

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

There is a vaping epidemic in Hawaii where children as young as elementary schoolers are obtaining and smoking electronic cigarettes. A common misconception about e-cigarettes is that they are a safe alternative to smoking actual tobacco cigarettes when in actuality, they are far from safe. Not only do most e-cigarette liquids contain nicotine, but they also contain harmful toxins and other unknown ingredients not approved by the FDA. Vapers are also able to lace marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine into the liquids. To put this in perspective, the amount of nicotine used in one e-cig is equivalent to about a pack of cigarettes. Because of this, I would like to request your support of HB276, banning flavored tobacco, including e-cigarette products in Hawaii.

Baldwin's Peer Education Program is made up of high schoolers from grades 10-12. For the 2018 National Student Safety Program Conference, Baldwin representatives were encouraged by members of the state Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii to address this epidemic as a high priority because of the increasing youth-user rates. Hawaii has some of the highest rates of vaping in the country with 25% of high school students and 15% of middle school students reporting that they had vaped in the past 30 days. There is even a reported case of an elementary schooler fixing broken vapes for profit. A Baldwin survey was conducted with approximately equal numbers of males and females to use in our 808NoVape campaign. Out of the 96 Baldwin high summer school students, we found that 81% believed that e-cigs are unsafe, yet, 57% of them have tried them despite the known harms. This shows that knowledge alone is not enough to keep them safe.

Moreover, flavored tobacco products are not being regulated properly. The liquids come in many flavors of candy and fruit and are sometimes packaged in brighter colors used to target a younger audience; a tactic that has been used for decades to promote alcohol and cigarettes. A few liquid ingredients aside from nicotine found in many e-liquids include formaldehyde, diacetyl, and isoprene. Formaldehyde is used to preserve dead bodies or organs from decomposing. Diacetyl is a buttery flavored chemical that was reportedly used in microwaveable popcorn. Breathing in diacetyl can cause popcorn lung, a condition that scars the air sacs and destroys the lungs. Isoprene is fragrance used in air fresheners. These fragrances can disrupt your endocrine system, creating a hormonal imbalance. This may delay puberty and cause unwanted physical changes. 81% of kids nationwide use a flavored tobacco product as their introduction to tobacco, including vaping. 90% of current users started by the age of 18. Among users, it was also found that 1 out of 13 will die early because of vaping and can acquire asthma, cancer, and even popcorn lung.

We don't need candy or fruity flavored tobacco to entice youth into starting a potentially life-long addiction to nicotine. I hope that these factors are enough to make the change to stop this epidemic in using flavored tobacco products.

Mahalo,  
Aaliyah Sistoza-Mortel  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

To the honorable members of the House committee,

I am writing today to request your utmost priority to ban flavored tobacco including flavored E-cig juices. I support the HB276 urging the request to pass this bill. I selected this as our policy priority because we believe something must be done to stop the epidemic of vaping among our peers and even relatives. Hawaii has some of the highest rates of vaping in the country, with 25% of high school students and 15% of middle school students reporting they vaped within the past 30 days.

The statistics are a horrifying reality. History has repeated itself with the Vaping Industry with the producers indirectly lying and for marketing to teens. Tobacco products and tobacco-related products have swarmed the modern teen environment with most students who have vaped, start using combustible tobacco afterward or has used the flavors from E-cig juices to lure and even carry on teen smokers/vapers. We don't need flavored tobacco and nicotine to entice youth into a potential life-long addiction to nicotine. Will you please help us to keep the children of our land safe? Even children in Elementary schools have found with vape products, we must stop this to ensure our children have a brighter and smoke-free future.

Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii's future bright.

Asher Tamashiro, Peer Education Advocate.

Mahalo,  
Asher Tamashiro  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Vaping is disgusting.

Mahalo,  
Jacsen Donohue  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Lauryn Ige, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Lauryn Ige  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Selena Feike, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Selena Feike  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

This has gone too far! Many people believe it is safer than smoking, but it contains more nicotine than cigarettes!! We need to stop this right away for the health of our keiki and future.

--Nicole Deshong

Mahalo,  
Nicole Deshong  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing today to petition a ban of the sale, distribution, and manufacture of flavored tobacco and nicotine in Hawaii.

Baldwin High Schools Peer Education Program (also known as PEP) is made up of high school students grade 10 and above. Our program discusses the consequences and the harmful impact vaping has on teens all around us. In PEP, we do presentations, make flyers, and try to spread as much awareness as possible for students to make good decisions. Although the use of cigarettes has gone down, teens have picked up another way to become addicted to tobacco and cigarettes. In Maui alone, 50% of teens have tried vaping. 32% of teens in Maui are current users.

As a high school student myself, I see my peers become addicted to nicotine and how much it impacts their lives. Vaping has become an epidemic and a ban of the sale and distribution of candy-flavored vaping products in Hawaii would only be beneficial. Although it seems like the "cool" and "edgy" thing to do nowadays, it has dangerous chemicals in them that people tend to look over (i.e acetaldehyde which is found in hairspray, benzene which is found in gasoline, and toluene which is found in paint thinner) Even though it's not affecting them now, vaping is relatively new and nobody knows how it will affect daily users in the future. In the past, we saw how much cigarettes affected the generation before us. Let's put an end to this epidemic before it becomes too late.

The electronic cigarette market does market to teens, no matter how much they deny it. The advertisements are flashy, edgy, and pulls the viewers in. No matter what flavor, you're still putting chemicals and terrible things into your body that you don't even know are there. There is only so much awareness people can spread about this topic. Please help us keep this generation from falling back into old habits from the previous generation, this is one of the biggest issues around us right now.

Mahalo,  
Shelby Blietz  
Haiku, HI 96708



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Juliane Venezuela, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Juliane Venezuela  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Chaelin Ryu, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Chaelin Ryu  
Kihei, HI 96753

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

So bad for your health.

Mahalo,  
Declan Levin  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Kids should grow up to be engineers, doctors, lawyers, the future. Not end up on the street, a victim of drug abuse. End this

Mahalo,  
Nathaniel Gasmen  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Aloha,

My name is Taryn-lee Pacheco and I strongly support HB276. Being part of PEP has opened my eyes to a lot of things and the use of nicotine and tobacco has been an attention grabber for me personally. "49% of our kids are trying e-cigarettes at the high school level, about 35% of our middle school students – a daily use rate of 34% of our high school students. This is Hawaii County. At the state level, about 27% of high school students are trying these devices. The U.S. national high school rates, it's about 20%" according to Hawaii Public radio.org.

I have a little brother and I wouldn't want him to have access to anything that can harm his health in the future. Vaping has cancer-causing substances and carcinogens. This can lead to a person getting very ill and causing them to have a premature death.

The 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act banned flavors in cigarettes, except menthol to curb youth appeal, but flavors are still allowed in other tobacco products. E-cigarette companies capitalize on this gap in regulation by offering kid-friendly flavors, such as cotton candy and gummi bear, and packaging e-liquids to look like common food items.

Please continue to support us.

Sincerely,  
Taryn Pacheco  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Aloha,

I'm writing to you today to request your support of our 2019 legislative priority to ban flavored tobacco, including e-cigarette products in Hawai'i to help prevent the possibility of youth being subjected to these products.

Students in the Peer Education Program believe that the laws must change. The outbreak of vaping amongst Maui youth is among the highest rates of vaping in the country. As a peer educator, it is our job to make known the dangers of vapes and flavored tobacco.

On Maui, 50% of high school students have tried vapes with 32% still currently using the product. 81% of kids nationwide use flavored tobacco products as their introduction to tobacco, including vaping. 30% of youth vapers start using combustible tobacco within 60 days of starting to vape and 90% of current smokers started before the age of 18. Banning flavors will reduce teens from trying.

What most people fail to understand is that the vape "juices" are unregulated and may be unsafe for use. The devices make it easier for these products to contain methamphetamine, cocaine, cough syrup, etc. Also unlike cigarettes, we have yet to find what other long term health risks besides (popcorn lung, cancer, strokes and heart attacks) that come with these vaping products.

The last thing we need is candy-flavored tobacco to entice youth into starting a potentially life-long addiction to nicotine. With the support from our community and legislatures, we hope to continue our path on pushing for the banning of flavored tobacco in order to secure the safety of our keiki.

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely, Francine Clarke  
Baldwin High School  
Peer Education  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

Greetings,

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

My name is Faaee Mahe I am a first year Peer educator at Baldwin High School. Our Peer Education class has made this one of our priorities to stop the widespread of vaping amongst our peers. Our school has a big problem with vaping. We believe that we need to put an end to this problem because the consequences of vaping can put our peers in danger.

Maui has the highest rates of vaping out of all of the islands. In the Hawai'i Risk Behavior Survey Public High School Results, Maui has the highest percentages in the state. With a 50.70% of students that have ever tried an ESD(Electronic smoking device), and 11.20% of students that have tried an EDS before the age 13. 32.30% of high school students on Maui have used EDS within the last 30 days. But it doesn't stop there Maui's middle schoolers also have high rates of vaping. With 32.10% of middle school students that have tried vaping and 18.30% of middle school students that are current users.

At our school, out of 96 Baldwin students surveyed, 81% believed that vaping is unsafe, but 57% admitted to vaping at least once. Also, out of the 96 that polled 40% of those students are current vapers. As a peer educator, I was shocked by the results. It scares me because our peers don't understand the dangers of vaping. Mostly the hazards that are in the liquid they used which is flavored tobacco. Vaping liquid has many harmful ingredients, but the most harmful ingredient would be nicotine. Nicotine is not only harmful to your body, but it can also lead you down a long road of addiction.

Vaping and flavored tobacco should have no part in our peer's life. We don't need nicotine taking over our youths lives in Hawai'i. Will you help our peer education class to convince our state legislators that this problem must end by supporting us?

Mahalo for helping Hawaii's Keiki to be safe.

Sincerely,  
Faaee Mahe  
Baldwin Pep  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

Greetings,

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Our Baldwin High School Peer Educators students here in Baldwin is a class where we bring awareness to these type of issues such as vaping to the students here at Baldwin and so that we could help them as well so that they have a better future ahead of them. Our PEP educators try to promote and spread the health effect smoking devices has on the human body. We have presentations for the younger students to inform them about this issue. Here in Baldwin High School there is a high rate of confiscation of electronic smoking devices from students.

According to recent statistics, the numbers have been really high from just kids here on Maui. As reported by the National Youth Tobacco Survey found that 11.7% high school students have tried vaping in the past 30 days. It has been shown that teens in Hawai'i use electronic smoking devices more than those in other states. Surprisingly teens here on Maui have the highest rate of vapers. Most teens aren't aware of the harmful chemicals that is in the e-liquid. The e-liquid contain chemicals that are found in gas, perfume, paint thinners, etc. When these products are inhaled they cause a lot of health issues such as popcorn lungs and cancer.

Companies that make these e-liquids specifically targets the youth by making them flavored by making it candy and fruit flavored that would draw more attention to it. We need to start bringing more awareness to this problem. Will you help us by convincing our state legislators that this issue has to come to an end?

Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii's keiki safe and also giving them a better future.

Sincerely,  
Fololiena Vaka  
Baldwin PEP  
Wailuku, HI 96793



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Aloha,

Today I am trying to convince you to support us in banning flavored tobacco, and other e-cigarette products, to make 2019 Hawaii a better and healthier environment.

I am a student in Baldwin's Peer Education Program. In this program our main goal is to encourage students to make safer and healthier life choices. We feel that something needs to happen to make a change in our society to lower the percentages of teen use with e-cigarette products. In Hawaii we have the highest rates of vaping in the country. There was a survey of 25% of high school students and 15% of middle school students that have vaped in the past 30 days. If you were to sit in a classroom you would notice some students using e-cigarette products in class, you may also be able to smell the Flavored liquid. Some of the products may be fooled as chargers or maybe even lip-gloss, so it makes it harder for the teachers to bust the students who are using these products.

A solution that should take charge is to make a law to help prevent the flavored tobacco getting into the hands of children or teens. Not only Hawaii but all over the world teens are using this type of product and there's proof all over social media. We must put a stop to this and I strongly feel that we should start here in Hawaii.

Mahalo,  
Johnara Vierra  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

As a young teenager, I am surrounded by peers who vape. Kids vape from electronic smoking devices that heat liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales. In these vapes, there are toxic ingredients that hide behind innocent-sounding flavors, such as cotton candy and gummy bears. These flavors introduce these children to a lifetime addiction.

The rate of vaping in the US has increased by 78% from 2017 to 2018, which is over 3.6 million vapers, who are under the age of 18. In Hawaii, the use of vaping has doubled national rates. The combination of toxic, enticing flavors and nicotine have led to a generation of nicotine-addicted teens.

As a teen who sees other teens vape on a daily basis, I notice how teens "feen". They say they like to get "domed", meaning that they feel light-headed from the nicotine. They also say that it gives them energy. These flavors have caused teens to enjoy the taste of the nicotine, which leads to an addiction. This needs to change. Teens are killing their bodies and they don't even know it.

Mahalo,  
Ceekaysha Koa  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I'm writing this letter to ask of your support to ban flavoring in tobacco, vaping, e-cigs, and other products. Our Baldwin PEP Program, selected this as our major priority to stop the epidemic use of vapes.

We learned that on Maui, 50% of high school students have tried vape products and 32% of high school still use it. However, being apart of the PEP Program it's our mission to help peers avoid getting into risky behaviors such as vaping. The consequences of vaping is that it can cause popcorn lung, which scars the small airways of the lungs to making breathing difficult.

Even though there's deadly consequences, teens live for today and don't care about how it affects their health. This is why we need to protect them from trying vapes. The industry attracts and hooks young people because the flavors are so appetizing and sounds yummy. We need strong laws to stop the sale of candy-flavored products. May we count on you to ban these products?

Thank you,  
Victoria Leong  
Baldwin High PEP  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I'm writing today to request your support for our state legislative priority to ban flavored tobacco, including e-cigarette, products in Hawaii.

PEP students have chosen this as our priority because we believe something must be done to prevent the spreading of vaping amongst our peers. Students are vaping in class, in the hallways, bathrooms. However, many teachers on campus either know and don't say anything or they actually don't know that students are actually doing that on campus. Hawaii has one of the highest rates of vaping in our country, 25% being high school students and 15% being middle school students report having vaped in the past 30 days.

It is clear to the members of PEP that stopping the sale of flavored tobacco will break this trend as flavors are what entice kids to try vapes. Products like flavored tobacco do not belong in Hawaii and we hope you feel the same.

We don't need candy-flavored tobacco to attract youth into beginning a possible life-long addiction to nicotine. Will you help convince our state legislators that this has to stop by adding your name to those endorsing at [www.flavorshookkidshi.org](http://www.flavorshookkidshi.org)?

Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii's middle and high school student safe.

Sincerely,

Janelle Guerrero  
Baldwin PEP  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Aloha,

I am a Peer Educator student at Baldwin High School. I am writing to you today to urge you to support us to ban flavored cigarettes/ tobacco products in Hawaii. The chemicals used inside the vapor liquid is things we shouldn't be breathing in and can affects our lungs.

Mahalo,  
Talia Kaio  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Meydy Reyes strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Meydy Reyes  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276 which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Many teenagers today depend on sourins and other vaping devices. A shocking number of my friends use these devices everyday which saddens me to see them grow so attached to them. Seeing that Hawaii is the number one state in nicotine usage, it makes sense that more than half of the students at my school vape. It has become something they need in order to get through the day and now that children are able to access it, the epidemic has grown into an even larger problem. Teens, and now children are most likely initially attracted to these devices due to the sweet flavor selections and appealing names that are marketed. This reason should be compelling enough to ban flavoring all together. Although tobacco cannot be banned completely, the sale of flavored nicotine must be stopped in order to save my generation and better our future.

sincerely, Laura Rowland  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Edgard Valdez Venegas, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Edgard Valdez Venegas  
Kahului, HI 96732



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Carissa Gonzalez-Tomlin, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Carissa Gonzalez-Tomlin  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Ireani Tancayo strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Ireani Tancayo  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Felmar Aquino, strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely, Felmar Aquino  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

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I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I am Evangeline Carino and I am part of the JROTC program. Health to me is one of the most important things because we all can agree we need it to survive basically. From a person with experience I can say that it can make someone feel horrible. This can also cause very bad effects like popcorn lung and dying at a young age. Many vape liquids include a chemical called nicotine which is very harmful. Just by touching a bit of nicotine on your skin can cause horrible irritation and dryness to the area so imagine letting the smoke of it going into your body, doesn't sound too great right? With over 15,000 different flavors on the market, there is a higher risk at young children being pulled into this addiction that causes many horrible events to happen. Taking action as soon as possible will help make things get better.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Evangeline Carino  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes. being a teen living in this community I see things as they are and I witness all that happens and how quickly vaping spreads. when I was just a 6th grader is when vaping first became known, and the most popular liquid at the time was called " unicorn tears " which was a fruity, sweet taste. vaping is getting out of control its bad enough teens are vaping but I hear stories about elementary students are getting caught with vapes. the vaping industry is targeting the youth with these candy flavors and now smaller vaping devices to hide easier and the social images that make kids want to try vaping. Younger kids are starting by wanting to be cool and being friends with all the teens, but once they take a hit, their addiction start. We should be preventing the start of addiction by banning flavors.

I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

sincerely angel dela cruz  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
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Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I am Kamalani Adolpho and my opinion they should Ban flavored tobacco products because it has a big effect on life. Such as high school students the percent of students that have consumed flavored tobacco products is 42 percent. In Hawaii 80 percent of youth currently vape use tobacco flavored products. This means that they will eventually suffer the consequences like popcorn lung or early death. Vaping may also cause lung cancer which will slowly but surely. Because of these reasons, we must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Kamalani Adolpho  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
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Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hello, my name is Abbygail Vioria. I am a 15-year-old high school student that attends H.P Baldwin High School. I am doing this because I believe that this vaping situation needs to be handled and stopped. I am very annoyed and angry that this is taking over some of my friends' lives. I treat my friends like they're my family and I have two little cousins that I love so much. I'm scared that they could get sucked into this and I DON'T WANT THAT. They're my little angels and I don't want them to endanger their health to just look cool.

I've seen the ads of all these different vaping products and I know that they don't intend to aim it at kids or teens but no matter how I look at it, all these vaping products are with teens than adults. This system needs to be fixed because it has been so easy for teens to buy, keep, and sell their different types of vaping products. Along with teens having and buying their own vaping products they also buy their own e-juice, but I don't understand why the juice is made as candy flavors. It proves the point that EVERY vaping product is aimed at teens or kids because why would you make the e-juice flavors that kids would enjoy. I don't see the point for the FDA to wait til 2022 to review these products. If they care enough about the next generation then they should check it and fix this problem now. As every day goes by more and more teens are ruining their health.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Abbygail Vioria  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes. I am a student at Baldwin High School and I know why e-cigarettes are dangerous to teens. I think that if a teen is using an e-cigarette, they will have a long life addiction and have a higher chance of having lung cancer. Many teens are like being cool and wanted to be as adults and they do that by smoking cigarettes or flavored cigarettes. I believe that teens should stop smoking and we can help by preventing this addiction to e-cigarettes.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Sincerely, Raina Ouye

Mahalo,  
Raina Ouye  
Wailuku, HI 96793



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hello! My name is Charmea Ancheta, I am a sophomore student at Henry Perrine Baldwin Highschool. I support the proposal of the candy-flavored tobacco ban. Candy-flavored affects many teens because the product smells and taste good. Tobacco is a toxic combination of enticing flavors and nicotine. I've seen many students vaping in class and in the halls as well and teachers don't realize that. It states in the article called " Youth and Young Adults are using candy-flavored tobacco alarming levels" states that "In the US, the youth vaping rates increased by a shocking 78% from 2017-2018 - that's over 3.6 million youth under the age of 18 vaping." The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups. The consequences of this are that while nicotine and tobacco addiction are deadly for EVERYONE. Native American and Filipinos die at higher rates of lung cancer than other groups.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Sincerely, Charmea Ancheta

Mahalo,  
charmea ancheta  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

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I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hello, my name is Katlyn Cummings and I support this because I have just moved here about a year ago and since I have moved here I have experienced more second-hand vaping and people using cigarettes than ever in my life. I see it happening at school as kids sneak vapes around the class or talk stories about where they gonna sneak out to smoke. I see vapes being used all around Maui and I can see how triggering it can be for kids to wanna participate. Us kids could be walking down the street and we smell cotton candy, we look around for where we can buy some sweet floss candy and all we see is a fellow teenager sneaking a vape or an adult blowing the fumes into our face. Honestly, I would prefer if vapes would have never existed because they have brought so many more young people into a lifestyle that could end up causing them a shorter life span and risk to their health. Not only has this effected highschool students greatly, but younger kids in middle school also have been seen with vapes and at that age, a lot of brain development is happening and these drugs could really mess up their development. Thank you for hearing me out on this topic, that is greatly affecting the future generations.

sincerely, Katlyn Cummings

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Katlyn Cummings  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

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I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Aloha! 'O Tia ko'u inoa. Hello my name is Tia. I am a sophomore at Baldwin high school. I support the restriction of the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco because it affects many teens and adults health. During multiple class periods, I witness teens vaping in class and the teachers do not see it in action. According to an article, over 3.6 million youths under the age of 18 vapes. The consequences of vaping are that while nicotine and tobacco addiction are deadly for everyone, Native Hawaiians and Filipinos die at a higher rate of lung cancer than other groups. What is influencing teens to vape? Well, according to an argument there are such flavors that are designed to appeal kids which are Fruit hoops, Sour straws, Gummy bear and more. A survey found that 25% of high schoolers said the reason they vape is the various types of flavors. Just in Maui 32% of highschoolers vape. Maui will never be the same if this trend continues.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Tia Castro

Mahalo,  
tia castro  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

My name is Makana Visaya and I attend Henry Perrine Baldwin high school. I think that the widespread practice of vaping is an interesting repetition of history. Just a few decades ago cigarettes were viewed as a very compelling product on the markets around the 1900s and now in the modern era roughly a few years into the 2000s vaping products are all the rage. It leads me to question the regulation of such products. The cigarette companies at the time had somewhat of an excuse due to the world's obliviousness to the dangers of tobacco products. However within recent years we can hardly say we aren't aware of such dangers. The reason to why we have a widespread of such detrimental product use is simply because they aren't regulated. This is shown through the wide assortments of seemingly youth oriented vaping advertising through product liquids that correspond with candy and other snack flavors. Please hear us and vote for regulation of such products.

Sincerely,  
Makana Visaya  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

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I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Lots of teenagers encounter E-cigarettes and probably most of them are attracted at the sweet flavor of the E-liquids. I believe that prohibiting the sale of flavored liquid that contains nicotine for Vape products will help reduce the number of teenagers using the E-cigarettes. Some teenagers who use vapes does not understand how it affects their body instead they are only using it because of the sweet flavors. There are over 15,000 flavors on the market and nobody knows what's in most of the liquids that are available to purchase. Flavored E-liquids seems like its advertised more towards teenagers and youths who are not very informed and educated about it. Ban of flavored tobacco and E-liquids will increase the awareness of the youths and make it harder for teenagers to own a E-cigarettes

Mahalo,  
Howon Ryu  
Kihei, HI 96753

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I'm 14 years old and I go to high school. Everyone you ask will say that they know someone that vapes and if they say something different they're lying. It has taken over the school and soon will take lives. The candy-like flavors attract kids that don't know any better. The kids are uneducated and just want to be cool. I strongly believe this bill will lower the use of vape because they're not going to buy the boring unflavored liquids.

Mahalo,  
Zack Ota  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

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I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Considering that vaping is bad for your health, people shouldn't be making them with desirable flavors. If its illegal for youth under 21 to buy, it's kind of counter-productive to make candy flavored liquids. That would mean that the sellers that are making products are directly targeting kids. People were curious about the products when they first came out. Adding flavors, candy flavors at that is doing nothing but making more people want to continue vaping while making other people in more curious to try it.

The fact that there are more than 15,000 flavors mean that they have many options to keep on trying until they find one that they really like. The various flavors seem to be making the epidemic of vaping worse with how statistics coming down to 80% of youth that is vaping are using flavored e-cigarettes.

This is why I would like you to consider the ban of flavors.

Kaily Nakasone

Mahalo,  
Kaily Nakasone  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Youth in Hawaii are attracted to candy-flavored tobacco partially because of the taste. It is important that we preserve the health and wellbeing of Hawaii's youth in order to decrease the number of childhood tobacco users. The number of teens and children currently using tobacco products in Hawaii is staggering and detrimental to the overall health of Hawaii's community. In 2017, 42% of high school students in Hawaii reported using ESDs. This number will be decreased by banning the sale of flavored products because they attract younger users. There are over 15,000 flavors of tobacco on the market, some of which are specifically meant to target younger members.

As a high school student, the health and safety of my peers and future generations are important to me. Many community members share the same views, as 72% of registered Hawaii voters support the regulation of ESDs as tobacco products. We should do everything in our power to help fight the epidemic and end childhood addiction. This is why I support the ban of sale of flavored tobacco products.

Mahalo,  
Skylar Masuda  
Wailuku, HI 96793



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I, Chanel Rosetes strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
chanel rosetes  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Keanna Campbell strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

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Mahalo,  
Keanna Campbell  
Kihei, HI 96753

1/30/2019

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The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Jenna Boggs strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

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Mahalo,  
Jenna Boggs  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Adam strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

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Mahalo,  
Adam Nassar  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Reanne Armandico strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

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Mahalo,  
Reanne Armandico  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Vance Calibuso strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
vance Calibuso  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I Laura-lee strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Laura-lee Carrizosa  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
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As a high school junior, I have had personal experience with trying and seeing others try vape products. The way the companies advertise these products make it seem way less harmful than it actually is. The flavoring is popular facade among teens. It masks the harmful chemicals inside of vape.

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee. -Kahiau

Mahalo,  
Kahiau Wong  
Wailuku, HI 96973



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

My name is Kelsi Souza and I think flavored e-liquids should be banned because the long-term effects it has on your health are still unknown. Vaping doesn't do you any good, it just puts you at a higher risk of having health problems such as developing popcorn lungs and pneumonia. In my experience vaping hasn't done me any good and i just did it because my friends were doing it, at the time i thought it was a cool thing to do but in reality it does nothing but harm your health.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction.

Sincerely,

Kelsi Souza  
Kahului, HI 96733

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

The use of nicotine-delivery devices has become a significant phenomenon among students at my high school. Despite ample punitive response from school administration, the use of "Vaping" devices has only swelled in recent months; though a mere piece of anecdotal evidence, I feel it indicates the "vaping crisis" is not one which can be allayed through legal/regulatory means. In a similar manner to the "war on drugs"-- which has altered the focus of law enforcement to prioritize drug-related criminal activity since the late '60s--, I believe these new acts regarding nicotine-delivery devices will prove largely ineffective in curbing the youth vaping epidemic. Personally, I've witnessed the recent rise of discrete, potent vaping devices over the past four years and genuinely recognize this as a significant issue --at least among high-school students. While most vape users currently choose to consume "flavored" e-liquid, the prohibition of such e-liquids does not seem to be a logical solution to the problem.

Mahalo,  
Jackson Masuda  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, This bill would prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products that are appealing to young kids in Hawai'i.

I am Junior at HP Baldwin Highschool & I want to see our State take a huge step towards guiding teens away from bad habits. Removing flavored E-juice items from the market would show a significant drop in sales because many teenagers would not want to even try something that's bland. Vapes are easily accessible and are incredibly appealing as well. There are over 15,000 flavors on the market, and many of these are so noticeably aimed at youths. These companies argue that they aren't trying to appeal to teens, yet I personally don't know any adult who would buy a "Blue Razz Lemonade", "Lemon Pie", or "Gummi Bear" flavored vape juice? Do you? I am so confident that many of my peers wouldn't even bother trying something that doesn't sound 'cool'.

Please consider this.

Sincerely,  
Bamby Ortiz  
Maui, HI

. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Bamby Ortiz  
Kihei, HI 96753

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

In my opinion, I would like to ban all smoking products. However, since people will most likely not go all the way I do support getting rid of something that involves smoking or vaping because it can be a right start to stopping smoking or vaping. If there is a ban on flavored e-liquid it can make kids less attracted to the vape. I would also support a law that bans all types of smoking and that it is illegal at any age to smoke vape etc. According to <https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87> only in 1940-1950 people started realizing what problems cigarettes do to the body. By 1960 only 1/3 of us doctors realized the case against smoking has been established. Till this day we still don't know all the effects of smoking and vaping, and this is why I support taking away flavored liquid.

Mahalo,  
Eythan Deregó  
Kula, HI 96790

1/30/2019

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Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Vaping has become an epidemic because young people were attracted to the number of delicious sounding flavoring. It makes people curious of what Summer Strawberry tastes like.

I strongly support that vaping is not good for you, I have never done it before but I have seen people do it before and I feel bad for them. sometimes they get caught which sucks but it's their fault, it is seriously bad for you, I don't know exactly what it does to you but I know it makes your life shorts or kills you. I know there is a bunch of flavors, but who cares! you have to stop early because when you do it you will get more and more addicted.

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Ben Wagner

Mahalo,  
Ben Wagner  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

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Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes

I am a student from Henry Perrine Baldwin Highschool. These flavors will attract consumers of all ages no matter who you are. These flavors will cover up the dangers of ESD's and may affect many generations. I myself have been around many people who use these ESD's. I do not support their decision, but there's only so much I can do. With the help of this ban, I will hopefully see a change and a brighter future for the people I associate with.

Vaping has shot up to 78% from 2017-2018. 3.6million kids under the age of 18 are in danger in the near future. Many Highschool students have admitted to vaping because of the flavor it gives off after taking a hit from the ESD's. From what I have heard Elementary schools have acquired ESD's from students. The elementary students might have been under the influence of their older siblings or idols.

I am hoping the ban for this product will go through in order to keep my friends and the community safe from the effects in the future.

Sincerely,  
Jedric Arenas  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I have friends who vape in/out of school. I can see the addiction that goes within them. I am not part of that crowd but they are my friends that I like to hang out with. My dad uses to say that vaping is a beginners habits, he says this because vaping can lead to more worst drugs since people are so experimental. Kids my age, older and even younger vape, they go into the bathrooms and vape every morning and evening. That?s why I strongly believe and support in HB276 since in my opinion will stop the use of vaping and make people not think about it. In 2015, the U.S. surgeon general reported that e-cigarette use among high school students had increased by 900 percent, and 40 percent of young e-cigarette users had never smoked regular tobacco. This was in 2015, with the growth of social media, more teens probably vape now being influenced by their idols or they think there is no harm.

Mahalo,  
Brayden Joaquin  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

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The effects of vaping occur over a long period of time and the more one uses a product the more one gets more addicted and starts showing addictive behavior. In middle school, I was pressured by a friend to try his vape and since then I feel I've been addicted to flavored tobacco products. Looking back I remember how it made me feel to vape and it made me feel cool but now that I've learned the harmful effects that come with vaping, I'd like to be a part of helping stop the youth vaping epidemic.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Kyle McKeown

Mahalo,  
Kyle McKeown  
Haiku, HI 96708



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

Hi, my name is Jason-Curtis H. Alboro and I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

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Mahalo,  
Jason-Curtis Alboro  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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I'm a student at Baldwin high school on the island of Maui. So far what I've heard and learned from people that vape is its bad. I've talked to some of them and they say they have a hard time breathing in sports and other physical activities. I run track and play football, I see a lot of people that were really good at football and could run fast in track but know after they vaped there slow and struggle to breathe and people that are addicted always ask for a vape and/or always have one on them and pretty much all they do is vape, they don't even know what they are putting into there body's. I've heard from one of my teachers that vape is equivalent to raid the same thing you kill cockroaches and other bugs with. I'm pretty sure when they say there's no nicotine in it there actually is in it and they just lie to you. On the doors of vape store's they say please show ID on the way in but kids still go in and there able to buy it still.

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

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Mahalo,  
Noah Tavares  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

I am a student at HP Baldwin High School, I have witnessed teenagers vaping. I, too have tried it before but after reading the article in health class I see how bad this epidemic is. Many teens in different schools even outside of Hawaii are addicted to vaping and are on it every single day. Vaping rates have increased 78% from 2017-2018, over 3.6 million kids under the influence are doing this. The reason kids are doing this is because of the e-liquids and the names, smell, and taste. It attracts teens and makes them wanna do it.

I've heard companies made high nicotine levels in their e-juices, what it does is it makes the victim have a short buzz and a high that lasts a couple seconds which teens get more addicted too. That is the main reason kids in Hawaii vape. They make 50mg liquids, mg is the amount of nicotine that is contained in the vape juice, Flavors attract students way more they have flavors that kids enjoy such as POG, Cotton Candy, and etc.

Back in 2017 I knew kids vaped and it wasn't a huge problem before the teens would be smoking their liquids at 0mg-9mg that's super low and not high enough to get addicted no one needed it every single day until last year in 2018 when they started making 50mg e-juices that's when everyone feened off of vapes that's when all the kids got addicted to it, vapes weren't the problem the high nicotine levels are the problem with kids getting addicted.

I urge you to consider this important flavor ban.

Sincerely,  
Rodan De Guzman  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

As a parent of school-aged children and a healthcare provider working in the schools, I have personally seen and smelled young consumers using flavored electronic products. The packaging on these items are clearly geared towards looking like candies, treats, and gums.

We cannot allow Hawaii's children to be part of the unknown diseases and health effects of the future. We cannot allow Tobacco companies to continue using our kids as lab rats. We don't yet know how all the chemicals in the liquid and smoke, when inhaled, affect the different organs and tissues. But think about inhaling nicotine, gasoline, nail polish, toluene, benzene, varnish, cadmium, and formaldehyde! We already know that these exposure or contact to these chemicals cause harm. When the research catches up to show all the detrimental health effects, today's children will be turning into adults, plagued with chronic lung diseases - COPD, asthma, cancer, popcorn lung, etc.

These companies are targeting our youth, with more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups! Look at how long it took us to figure out the effects of traditional tobacco cigarettes and remember when they wanted to market fruity flavored cigarettes to teens. Look at the millions of people - current smokers, previous-smokers, and second-hand smokers, affected with high blood pressure, chronic lung conditions, cancer, and a multitude more of health effects. Do we want to allow our State's population health to suffer and become worse as years progress? Do we want our children and grandchildren to have shorter life expectancies, higher health premiums, and the like, due to increasing younger populations smoking.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Christine Prentice  
Waianae, HI 96792

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

As a pediatrician who cares for kids from throughout our state at the only children's hospital in Hawaii, I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Studies have shown that 8 in 10 kids start with a flavored tobacco product. It's no coincidence that the rise in youth vaping has coincided with an explosion of sweet e-liquid flavors used to hook kids. With more than 15,500 flavors, these products are being irresponsibly marketed – who is the industry really targeting with flavors like Fruit Hoops, Sour Straws, or Cookie Monsta?

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We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Thank you so much for your attention to this important matter!

Mahalo,  
Maya Maxym  
Honolulu, HI 96817

1/30/2019

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It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

I do support that law to be made because all of these different flavors are just attracting kids and adults to try smoking or smoke even more. There are all kinds of different flavors and if they were banned then everybody would be less attracted to smoking. There is a huge percentage of kids and adults who vape and this law would lower it. "<https://stillblowingsmoke.org/#kids>" states that a huge percentage of people who vape all because of these attractive flavors. I personally have some uncles and aunties that vape because of good flavors and it is a worse alternative then smoking cigarettes. If these flavors were banned then there would so many less people smoking e-cigarettes and vapes. Because of these ways of smoking 80,000 people die each year. I want to reduce that number.

Mahalo,  
Jai Mashino  
Kula, HI 96790

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I support the law to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes because in <https://stillblowingsmoke.org/#kids> it states that kids who vape are most likely to smoke cigarettes a year later. According to <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree/why-quit/smoking-health-problems> it states that people in England die every year, roughly around 80,000 deaths each year. So I support that we should make it a law to ban tobacco products. Because of this example I shared, many of us Hawaiians would die because of these smoking problems. We should ban flavor products because according to <https://truthinitiative.org/news/5-strategies-passing-local-laws-against-flavored-tobacco> kids are getting hooked on to these products because of how they taste, these products would lead to smoking cigarettes.

Mahalo,  
McKay Pali  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Our state has one of the highest per capita uses of flavored tobacco products among middle school and high school students in the US. After the tremendous success of the Tobacco Free Coalition, the legislature, and many others in drastically reducing teen tobacco use in Hawaii, tobacco use among teens has made a drastic U-turn with the introduction and promotion by tobacco companies of flavored, "cool," e-cigarettes. These products have deliberately targeted children by adding many, many flavors with candy names like "Fruit Hoops", using colorful candy-like packaging directed toward children, and advertising that stresses good taste and smell of these products. In fact, the taste and packaging of flavored tobacco products are so enticing that young children have ingested the flavored juice with tragic results.

These electronic products were originally marketed as a safe way to wean off cigarettes. This assertion has no scientific evidence to back it up and misleads our keiki who feel that using ESP's is not only cool, but also safe. Ironically, tobacco companies have cynically taken advantage of gullible consumers by significantly increasing the nicotine concentration in the flavored "juices" so that new users are instantly hooked on nicotine, which is one of the most addicting substances known to man. This means that our keiki are rapidly becoming addicted to nicotine, instantly creating a life-long market for tobacco companies.

Unfortunately, the FDA has been slow to recognize the harmful potential of vaping despite frantic warnings from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Finally the head of the FDA has suggested some control of flavored ESP's in gas stations and convenience stores, which doesn't at all cover on line or tobacco store purchases, and there is no review of sales to minors until 2022. Also, flavored smokeless tobacco and hookah are not addressed. This is reminiscent of the long and difficult push to control tobacco sales, which was violently opposed by tobacco companies and their lobbyists. I am sure we all remember the insistence by Big Tobacco that there was no health risk from tobacco products.

It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

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Sincerely,  
Linda Weiner, MD  
Pediatrician, Kauai  
Kalaheo, HI 96741



1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Michele Nihipali  
Hauula, HI 96717

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Mahalo,  
Camille Chong  
Honolulu, HI 96826

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Michelle Kwock  
Honolulu, HI 96813

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Shay Chan Hodges  
Haiku, HI 96708

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Debbie Drummondo  
Aiea, HI 96701

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Anne Scharnhorst  
Wailuku, HI 96732

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Patricia Fleck  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Patricia Blair  
Kailua, HI 96734



1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Katalina McGlone  
Honolulu, HI 96823

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Diane Neubert  
N San Juan, CA 95960

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Christopher La Chica  
Mililani, HI 96789

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
MARIA MORENO-CHOW  
Kailua, HI 96734

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Shilpa Patel  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Mahalo,  
Crystal Costa  
Honolulu, HI 96814

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Allison Seales  
Honolulu, HI 96817

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Mahalo,  
Shelley Fey  
Honolulu, HI 96821



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Mahalo,  
May Rose Dela Cruz  
Wahiawa, HI 96786

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Mahalo,  
Michelle Gray  
Honolulu, HI 96825

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Mahalo,  
Mae Kyono  
Honolulu, HI 96826

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Mahalo,  
Jeny Bissell  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

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Mahalo,  
Laurence Muleh  
Makawao, HI 96768

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Wilson Datario  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
Tenaya Jackman  
Honolulu, HI 96815

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Mahalo,  
Tanya Gabriel  
Kihei, HI 96753



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Mahalo,  
Jenny Welham  
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Mahalo,  
Chelsea Gonzales  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Mahalo,  
Duquesa Padamada  
Lihue, HI 96766

1/29/2019

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Mahalo,  
Cherie Andrade  
Kailua, HI 96734

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Mahalo,  
Angelina Mercado  
Honolulu, HI 96819

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Leila Ventar  
Lihue, HI 96766

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Mahalo,  
Alan Trinh  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
CINDY WONG  
Honolulu, HI 96814



1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Malie Wickes  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Julie-Ann Lee-Horita  
Honolulu, HI 96821

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Mahalo,  
Cori Takesue  
Lanai City, HI 96763

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Shayda Marciel  
Lihue, HI 96766

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Mahalo,  
Kim Holokai  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Clint Gima  
Paia, HI 96779

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Mahalo,  
Y Reis  
Kailua, HI 96734

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Mahalo,  
Destinee Ogas  
Hilo, HI 96720



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Mahalo,  
Kerry Foltz  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Ragnhild Jenkins  
Kula, HI 96790

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Mahalo,  
Michelle Gima  
Paia, HI 96779

1/29/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

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Mahalo,  
Ryan McMillan  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
Allen Kennedy  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Katrina Jardine  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
Jakala hallums  
Goose Creek, SC 29445

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Keith Shirota  
Kahului, HI 96732



1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Khanh Nguyen  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
Ashlee Klemperer  
Kihei, HI 96753

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Mahalo,  
Leilani Abafo  
Makawao, HI 96768

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Mahalo,  
Jean Morris  
Lihue, HI 96766

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Mahalo,  
Elizabeth Conroy-Humphrey  
Lanai City, HI 96763

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Anna Cantor  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Marlisa Corpuz  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
Jhoana Gonzales  
Hilo, HI 96720



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Mahalo,  
Tiana Enos-Dano  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Mahalo,  
May Okuhama-Wong  
Pukalani, HI 96788

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Mahalo,  
Ana Ramirez  
Haiku, HI 96708

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Mahalo,  
Cherisse Fernandez  
Kahului, HI 96732

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Mahalo,  
Tejahlyn Kuloloia  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Lea Kashiwamura  
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jessica baker  
Makawao, HI 96768

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Mahalo,  
Sharisse Lynn Pinheiro-Jones  
Kihei, HI 96753



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Mahalo,  
Kaitlin Lacio  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
rose aco  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Mahalo,  
Lindsey Kimoto  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Jacquelyn Grimes  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Jayda Cortez  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Jacqueline Agorilla  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Jensen Bonilla  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Rhea Chung  
Wailuku, HI 96793



1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Czaresse Piano  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Kiara Bal  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Mary Ann Garcia  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Simona Richmond  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Sofia Yolanda Marin Vasquez  
Kahului, HI 96732

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Madi Goueytes  
Haiku, HI 96708

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Mahalo,  
Christine Lema  
Kahului, HI 96732

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Mahalo,  
Ronald Smith  
Kahului, HI 96732



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Mahalo,  
Elisabeth Parrish  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

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Mahalo,  
Kara Wong Ramsey  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Mahalo,  
Honesty Rodrigues  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Skyla Adriano-Howard  
Paia, HI 96779

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Mahalo,  
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Haiku, HI 96708

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Mahalo,  
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Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Katelyn Jones  
Kahului, HI 96732



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Mahalo,  
Kendall Taomoto  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
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Mahalo,  
Kaitlin Feig  
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Mahalo,  
Taylor Nobriga  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Dylan Pena  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Alyssa Ferreira  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Arren James Bacay  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Jonathan Gomez  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Mahalo,  
Johana Tacardon  
Wailuku, HI 96793



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Mahalo,  
Savannah Blietz  
Haiku, HI 96708

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Mahalo,  
Diego Gonzales  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Mahalo,  
Jenny Lee  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Noelle Lovesy  
Hilo, HI 96720

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Nichole Chaffin  
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Mahalo,  
Howon Ryu  
Kihei, HI 96753

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Mahalo,  
Jesther Alasaas  
Kahului, HI 96732

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Mahalo,  
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Wailuku, HI 96793



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Mahalo,  
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Mahalo,  
Reinhard Taidrik qs  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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It's also critical to include menthol cigarettes in the flavored tobacco ban. Menthol cigarettes are a popular starter product, as it has cooling properties that mask the harshness of tobacco smoke and nicotine. The tobacco industry has a long history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and vulnerable groups, such as the Native Hawaiian community, and has led to health disparities.

We must end the sale of candy-flavored tobacco to protect our youth from a lifetime of addiction. I strongly support HB276 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Jaysen Giroux  
Wailuku, HI 96793



1/30/2019

RE: Strong Support of HB276, Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support HB276, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-liquids and menthol cigarettes.

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Mahalo,  
Enkan Amsa  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

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Mahalo,  
Isabelle Collier  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

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Mahalo,  
Henry Anakalea  
Wailuku, HI 96793

1/30/2019

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Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

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Mahalo,  
Marissa Fakaosita  
Honolulu, HI 96826

1/30/2019

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Members of the House Committee on Health

Hrg: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Capitol Room 329

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Mahalo,  
Patricia Juszczak  
Hilo, HI 96720

1/30/2019

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Members of the House Committee on Health

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Mahalo,  
Diana Shaw  
Lanai City, HI 96763

1/30/2019

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The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
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Mahalo,  
Lisa Weiner  
Kalaheo, HI 96741

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:57:12 PM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**LATE**

**From:** [Brian Baker](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:26:42 PM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

Potential Harm Reduction Should Be Considered - E-vapor category is relatively new, some public health and tobacco control researchers have reached the preliminary conclusion that e-vapor products may present a compelling risk reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Mitch Zeller, Director of the Center for Tobacco Products at FDA, along with many scientific experts, has recognized the promise tobacco harm reduction and potentially reduced risk products may hold for public health. In a recent letter to the World Health Organization, 53 global experts on nicotine policy stated that policies that are excessively restrictive or burdensome on lower risk products can have the unintended consequence of protecting cigarettes from competition from less hazardous alternatives and cause harm as a result. In a recent survey of 4,618 e-vapor consumers, almost half of participants said that a lack of variety of flavors would make reducing or completely switching from smoking cigarettes less likely.

Approximately 90% of adult e-vapor consumers report using flavored products.<sup>9</sup> Hawaii should respect the preferences of adult consumers to use flavored products, especially when they could play a role in reducing tobacco-related harm. We believe regulators and legislators should tailor public policies to reflect the uniqueness of this category, including the fact that these products emit vapor, not smoke.

A ban on characterizing flavors could contribute to the growth of the “Do-It-Yourself” DIY involves purchasing separately, and then mixing, liquid nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavors to make an e-liquid for an open device. Details on how to mix flavors and liquid nicotine are readily available online. Materials for DIY – some of which are of unknown quality and origin – are inexpensive and widely available. FDA has not yet explored issues raised by the separate sale, and home-mixing, of nicotine and flavorings.

21 Age Restriction Already in Place. Hawaii already has put a 21 and older ban on sales of vapor products in place. Kids should not use any nicotine product and access to such products, including those with characterizing flavors. No manufacturer should use children’s cartoons or youth-oriented candy trademarks to market their products. When its rulemaking is final, FDA will have comprehensive authority over the sale and marketing of all tobacco and tobacco-derived nicotine products. This authority includes the ability to take further action as required to prevent illegal underage purchase.

This ban would essential destroy the vapor industry as all flavors - even the “natural tobacco flavor” mentioned in the bill are the results of flavoring. This means all vapor products would be illegal if this bill passes. I am sure this is not what you meant to do with this bill, and its result would mean the lose of my business and creation of a black market and increased

online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

**LATE**

**From:** [Ellen Benton](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:07:40 PM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

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A ban on characterizing flavors could contribute to the growth of the “Do-It-Yourself” DIY involves purchasing separately, and then mixing, liquid nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavors to make an e-liquid for an open device. Details on how to mix flavors and liquid nicotine are readily available online. Materials for DIY – some of which are of unknown quality and origin – are inexpensive and widely available. FDA has not yet explored issues raised by the separate sale, and home-mixing, of nicotine and flavorings.

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This ban would essential destroy the vapor industry as all flavors - even the “natural tobacco flavor” mentioned in the bill are the results of flavoring. This means all vapor products would be illegal if this bill passes. I am sure this is not what you meant to do with this bill, and its result would mean the lose of my business and creation of a black market and increased online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [dskye10@gmail.com](mailto:dskye10@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:02:49 PM

---



Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

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Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Eric Heaukulani](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:39:27 PM



Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

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Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,  
Eric Heaukulani

Sent from my iPhone







**From:** [Katelyn Kapua](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:02:17 PM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

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Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Katelyn Kapua

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Vin Kim](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:35:32 PM

---

Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

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Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,



**From:** [Ashley Mattos](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 5:41:34 PM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

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Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,  
Ashley Mattos

Sent from my iPhone



**LATE**

**From:** [Rafael Montero](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:35:14 PM

---

Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

Potential Harm Reduction Should Be Considered - E-vapor category is relatively new, some public health and tobacco control researchers have reached the preliminary conclusion that e-vapor products may present a compelling risk reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Mitch Zeller, Director of the Center for Tobacco Products at FDA, along with many scientific experts, has recognized the promise tobacco harm reduction and potentially reduced risk products may hold for public health. In a recent letter to the World Health Organization, 53 global experts on nicotine policy stated that policies that are excessively restrictive or burdensome on lower risk products can have the unintended consequence of protecting cigarettes from competition from less hazardous alternatives and cause harm as a result. In a recent survey of 4,618 e-vapor consumers, almost half of participants said that a lack of variety of flavors would make reducing or completely switching from smoking cigarettes less likely.

Approximately 90% of adult e-vapor consumers report using flavored products.<sup>9</sup> Hawaii should respect the preferences of adult consumers to use flavored products, especially when they could play a role in reducing tobacco-related harm. We believe regulators and legislators should tailor public policies to reflect the uniqueness of this category, including the fact that these products emit vapor, not smoke.

A ban on characterizing flavors could contribute to the growth of the “Do-It-Yourself” DIY involves purchasing separately, and then mixing, liquid nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavors to make an e-liquid for an open device. Details on how to mix flavors and liquid nicotine are readily available online. Materials for DIY – some of which are of unknown quality and origin – are inexpensive and widely available. FDA has not yet explored issues raised by the separate sale, and home-mixing, of nicotine and flavorings.

21 Age Restriction Already in Place. Hawaii already has put a 21 and older ban on sales of vapor products in place. Kids should not use any nicotine product and access to such products, including those with characterizing flavors. No manufacturer should use children’s cartoons or youth-oriented candy trademarks to market their products. When its rulemaking is final, FDA will have comprehensive authority over the sale and marketing of all tobacco and tobacco-derived nicotine products. This authority includes the ability to take further action as required to prevent illegal underage purchase.

This ban would essential destroy the vapor industry as all flavors - even the “natural tobacco flavor” mentioned in the bill are the results of flavoring. This means all vapor products would be illegal if this bill passes. I am sure this is not what you meant to do with this bill, and its result would mean the lose of my business and creation of a black market and increased

online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,  
Rafael



**From:** [Mariner Revell](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:46:30 PM



Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

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Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Mariner Revell  
1040 Kukuau St  
Hilo HI 96720

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Valentino Miranda-kepa](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:48:57 PM



Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

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online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,  
Valentino Miranda-kepa

**LATE**

**From:** [Alyn Hiramoto](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:56:55 PM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

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online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Allyn Hiramoto

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:34:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I work at a local vape shop, and I am STRONGLY opposed to House Bill 276. It jumps to the conclusion that vaping is more harmful than tobacco, and that is a dangerous assumption that puts the health of our many ADULT customers at risk. Removing the choice of flavor from vape juice will have a significantly negative impact on the health of many legal adults, as many will likely switch back to cigarettes and other traditional tobacco products. Instead of penalizing the thousands of voting citizens who are practicing a safer alternative (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-cigarettes-around-95-less-harmful-than-tobacco-estimates-landmark-review>), if you instead enforce a financial penalty upon offending minors, and enforce the payment of said penalties in a similar manner to the way traffic violations are enforced, it will be a much more progressive and ethical approach.

Many, if not all of us in the industry are heavily against minors and those who do not meet the legal age purchasing and using vape products. Instead of simply writing us off as the problem, please attempt to work with us as we are willing and qualified to become community outreach on this subject matter.

As it stands, tobacco use is the lowest it has been in decades, and the introduction of a safer alternative is the reason for that. Expect those numbers to rise exponentially with a ban on flavors, especially in the "under 21" age bracket, but with considerable increase in all age groups and demographics.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:11:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Leave the flavors alone! E-cigs help people's quit efforts.



**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:52:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Not only no, but hell no.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:28:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert H. Pantell, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re: HB 276

Fr: Robert H., Pantell, MD

Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, UH JABSOM

Director, Kapiolani Child Advocacy and Protection Center

Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Dear Representative Vhair Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health,

I urge your support of HB 276. As the Bill describes, there are substantial negative health consequences of vaping, especially the use of flavored products to hook and addict youth. The marketing techniques used to addict children to nicotine will undoubtedly be taught in Ethics classes as a sentinel event marking the complete collapse of integrity.

Hawai'i should demonstrate its strong interest in the well being and health of its children by banning flavored products, packaging designed to appeal to children, and the distribution of product and paraphernalia.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:40:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Calmentina Himalaya Kutzen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. My husband been trying to quit cigarettes and it is hard for him. Along with that, I don't like him smoking cigarettes around me, our kids, and our grandchildren. My husband just did an umbilical hernia repair surgery yesterday and doctor says that he rather have my husband vape (to try quit cigarettes) instead of smoking cigarettes. So if his doctor says its ok to vape, I don't mind my husband vaping. Along with these vapes, they have different juices and you can control the nicotine level. And like I said, it'll help my husband quit cigarettes.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:50:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melvin C Baldwin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:50:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Robin Iriarte. I am the spouse of a former smoker of 20 years. For many years I have suffered with chronic asthma and being around second hand smoke didnt help any. His health was declining and he on a lot of medication. It wasn't till about five years ago that he finally found a healthier alternative to smoking which was vaping.

Since he started vaping We have all noticed as well as his doctor that he was able to stop taking some of his medication to include high blood pressure, boarder line diabetes, etc. Vaping has definately benifted me as well because just the residual on his clothing and hair would impact my breathing. If flavor bans go into effect it worries me that he will go back to smoking which will be harmful to his health. Vape e-liquid is made of food grade, kosher products as well as pharmaceutical ingredients that you find in everything we consume. This goes to include Pg (propelyene glycol) which you can find in inhalers, food, etc Vg (vegetable glycerin) which could also be used as a skon care product.

The FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb. It states that the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has contributed to a decline of combustible tobacco, which is known to cause cancer. It also clearly states that it intends on limiting flavored cigarettes to age restricted stores, or areas. There is also talk of restricting online sales. Most vape shops In Hawaii do not do online sales, so they understand why this would help limit access to teens ability to get access to ENDS. The majority of teens getting their hands on these products are not coming from Vape Shops. They are coming from Internet sales from retailers that do not have a robust age verification in place, or from stores that have no age restriction. All vape shops have a strict age verification in place. Following what the FDA is suggesting/recommending is a much better solution. If all flavors are banned, it will create an increase in adult use of combustible tobacco, which would be a step backwards. If adults no longer access to the flavor(s) they used to stop using combustible tobacco, they will ultimately go back to the use of combustible tobacco. We agree that teenage use of ENDS products is unacceptable, and Vape Shops throughout Hawaii have, and are taking steps towards stopping this. Almost all shops in Hawaii have stopped selling JUUL. The Vape community, as a whole, has a high distain for JUUL. They have solely created such a negative tone for the Vape community that most vape shops around the country, just as in Hawaii, have stopped selling their products. JUUL has always been a "Gas Station" product. As a community

we can help put a stop to teens use of ENDS, without punishing adults that have successfully stopped combustible tobacco by using flavored e-liquids. Just as with flavored alcohol, which there is no shortage of, teens should not be easily able to get their hands on any product deemed to be for adult use. If we work together, we can stop, and prevent this from happening without it being at the expense of adults that have successfully used flavored e-liquid to stop smoking. Let's work together as a community, because I can guarantee that vape shops don't want teenage people vaping as much, if not more than everyone else. The Vape community has always had one sole purpose. That's to get adults off combustible, and non-combustible (Chewing Tobacco) tobacco. And it has done so with greater success than any other cessation device. The Vape community is ready to work closely with all parties to put an stop to underage usage.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:18:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Greetings!

My name is Cerelia Bustamante and I oppose HB 276. I was a heavy cigarette smoker for 31 plus years and have turned to vaping liquid ecigs to better my health which was approved by my physician after I informed her of my alternative to vaping and the ingredients in the eliquid juice which is also in our everyday food that we eat and drink. Since I turned to vaping all of my numbers for diabetes, high blood pressure and alot of my other health conditions has significantly improved. So with that being said I again totally oppose this crazy bill that you are trying to pass. We need to focus on the high crime rates in Hawaii and leave the vaping coming alone.

Thank you so much!!

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:27:15 PM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:45:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Vapeing for me has helped me throughout these years. My dad has been a smoker my whole life and thought I'd give it a try. I started smoking at a young age and being that I was doing a lot of athletic activities smoking really did catch up to me. Every time I would be doing these activities I would find myself losing my breath and getting tired really fast. Then the first electronic devices came out and gave those a try and it really did help me out a lot. I honestly haven't touched a cigarette in 3 years and counting. So I bought one for my dad and he is currently in the process of quitting cigarettes. People do say that vapeing is worse than cigarettes but there is no studies that show there's more chemicals going into your body than regular cigarettes. But all I gotta say is that sharing my story with you gives you some idea of how vapeing flavored liquids helped me out.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:51:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Do not pass this bill. It is already illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to participate in vaping. Adults who choose to vape should be able to use whatever flavoring they choose. It is already known that minors are vaping. Focus on stopping them from breaking the law instead of denying adults a product that they may enjoy as an alternative to regular cigarettes. I understand it is occurring in schools and nothing is being done to stop it. Why not? You make thousands of laws and then you don't enforce them (or enforce them "selectively"). You are not supposed make decisions for adults because you think a product is "risky" to youth. If that is a criteria then we would allow people to ride bicycles on the road -- that is "risky"; and even these days, being a pedestrian on a traffic island; --- and most especially you should never consider allowing recreational marijuana (SB 686 for example) in our state. Stop regulating every facet of our lives and stop interfering with private enterprise. We have real issues in Hawaii that are being ignored. Stop taxing us to death and causing more and more homeless to be on the streets and incurring an ever increasing backlog of unfunded liabilities. Stop making it difficult for businesses to succeed due to over regulation. Focus on a few real issues; resolve them and then and only then (never) consider the most frivolous concepts (flavored vape products). Vote NO on HB276, be done with it, and move on to more serious issues.

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:06:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

I oppose anytype of ban on e-cigarette products. Smoking cigarettes is proven to be one of the most unhealthy habits for humans. E-cigarette products are one of the most effective ways for those addicted to nicotine to curb and eliminate their habit of smoking. Patches, gum, etc. did not work for me. E-cigarettes allowed me to slowly dose myself of nicotine without harming those around me. For those who don't use it to quit it allows them to get their nicotine fix without harming those around them with second hand smoke.

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:16:16 PM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:34:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
malcolm kawika vigil-ako	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposing HB276 because I enjoy The fruity flavors I vape and the vaping industry is a huge industry rn so lots of business will go out of business if they are only allowed to smoke tobacco flavors if that's the case everyone might as well smoke one regular cigarette same thing. Just my opinion mahalo

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:53:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have a consumer of flavored tobacco products for the past 10 years, (back then the legal age for someone to purchase flavored tobacco products was 18) and I haven't turned back to cigarettes since. This is a healthy alternative lifestyle for me. I do not condone the use/sale of these products to anyone under the legal age for the state of Hawaii and feel that it is not fair to us (adults that are trying to live a healthier lifestyle) to not be able to choose the flavor of our tobacco product of our choice and therefore oppose this bill 100%. Like a lot of other consumers here in Hawaii it is our choice and should not be singled out because of a few bad apples. I believe that harsher punishment for those under the legal age should be part of the answer, but the ultimate answer is that the parents (whether knowingly or unknowingly) who allow their underage keiki to use such products should be the ones who suffer the consequence, not those of us who are trying, not only to live/support a healthier lifestyle, but to be around to enjoy the life of our keiki for the years to come.

Mahalo for allowing me to express my concerns about this bill

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:52:41 AM  
Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:59:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelli Buenconsejo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am against the sale of flavored tobacco products. E-cigarettes has been touted as a "safer option than cigarette smoking and will help smokers transition to quit smoking". In reality, people tend to vape more than smoking regular cigarettes because of the flavors. Manufacturers are now attracting younger vapers because of these flavors and the belief that "I am only smoking flavored water." We know that any type of cigarette smoking has long term detrimental effects to one's body. E-cigs have much more chemical additives than regular cigarettes and we are all being exposed to their effects because people will vape a lot more than using regular cigarettes. Our keiki are being exposed to these vapors and we do not know the long term ramifications of not only the e-cigarette user, but those exposed to 2nd hand vapors.

Please consider supporting this bill and stop the sale of flavored tobacco products

Thank you



**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:10:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'll remember next November how you guys voted on this bill. Please say no to HB276.

**LATE**

My name is Richard Collins and I live in Kula, Maui and I am testifying as an individual.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB276!

I support the bill for the following reasons:

1. Flavored tobacco products are a high-risk product for youth and they are most often the first type of tobacco product used by youth.
2. Flavored tobacco products target underage youth. The colors, marketing strategies, and flavors of the tobacco products are targeted to youth. This is unacceptable and appalling. In order to protect our youth from such marketing, it is imperative that we remove these products from our communities.
3. Flavors hook kids. Most underage youth today begin smoking using a flavored tobacco product. Additionally, youth who start smoking underage are much more likely to smoke into adulthood. This can all be rooted in flavor tobacco hooking our youth at a young age.

I implore you to SUPPORT HB276! This can be your legacy in creating a safer, healthier environment for our youth!

Sincerely,

Richard Collins

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:49:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I love the vaping of e liquid flavor it's really safe and it's very delicious for adults please don't take away the flavor from the vaping industry here in Hawaii

**LATE**

**HB-276**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:29:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelly Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: Kelly Miyamoto (Private citizen)

To: Health and CPC Committees

Hearing date: January 31, 2019 at 9:30 am

Measure number: HB 276 Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products

As a private citizen, I fully support HB 276 and I am asking for your support in return. As a mother of two, I feel it is our duty as parents to protect our keiki from the known effects of nicotine addiction. My father started smoking cigarettes as a young kid. He smoked for over 50 years until he was diagnosed with cancer, at which time he decided to quit "cold turkey." I am proud to say he is now in his 80s and healthy as ever.

The industry targets young children with these enticing flavored e-liquids used with ESDs. Hawaii is already seeing an epidemic of young children using ESDs. We must intervene and stop these billion-dollar companies from exploiting our children to enhance their insatiable need for increased revenue.

We must remember that young children look to adults for direction, even as middle schoolers or high schoolers. We must stand together to protect them and educate them on the deleterious effects of nicotine and addiction.

I humbly ask for your support for HB 276. Thank you very much.



**From:** [Francis Luu](#)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276  
**Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 8:35:34 AM

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Dear Chair Mizuno & House Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB276.

Any regulation of flavors should occur at the federal level - Congress empowered FDA to establish tobacco product standards such as restricting flavors only if FDA determines that such action would be appropriate for the protection of the public health based on science and evidence.

Potential Harm Reduction Should Be Considered - E-vapor category is relatively new, some public health and tobacco control researchers have reached the preliminary conclusion that e-vapor products may present a compelling risk reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Mitch Zeller, Director of the Center for Tobacco Products at FDA, along with many scientific experts, has recognized the promise tobacco harm reduction and potentially reduced risk products may hold for public health. In a recent letter to the World Health Organization, 53 global experts on nicotine policy stated that policies that are excessively restrictive or burdensome on lower risk products can have the unintended consequence of protecting cigarettes from competition from less hazardous alternatives and cause harm as a result. In a recent survey of 4,618 e-vapor consumers, almost half of participants said that a lack of variety of flavors would make reducing or completely switching from smoking cigarettes less likely.

Approximately 90% of adult e-vapor consumers report using flavored products.<sup>9</sup> Hawaii should respect the preferences of adult consumers to use flavored products, especially when they could play a role in reducing tobacco-related harm. We believe regulators and legislators should tailor public policies to reflect the uniqueness of this category, including the fact that these products emit vapor, not smoke.

A ban on characterizing flavors could contribute to the growth of the “Do-It-Yourself” DIY involves purchasing separately, and then mixing, liquid nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavors to make an e-liquid for an open device. Details on how to mix flavors and liquid nicotine are readily available online. Materials for DIY – some of which are of unknown quality and origin – are inexpensive and widely available. FDA has not yet explored issues raised by the separate sale, and home-mixing, of nicotine and flavorings.

21 Age Restriction Already in Place. Hawaii already has put a 21 and older ban on sales of vapor products in place. Kids should not use any nicotine product and access to such products, including those with characterizing flavors. No manufacturer should use children’s cartoons or youth-oriented candy trademarks to market their products. When its rulemaking is final, FDA will have comprehensive authority over the sale and marketing of all tobacco and tobacco-derived nicotine products. This authority includes the ability to take further action as required to prevent illegal underage purchase.

This ban would essential destroy the vapor industry as all flavors - even the “natural tobacco flavor” mentioned in the bill are the results of flavoring. This means all vapor products would be illegal if this bill passes. I am sure this is not what you meant to do with this bill, and its result would mean the lose of my business and creation of a black market and increased

online sales of unregulated products.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Aloha,

Regards,

Francis