

DAVID Y. IGE  
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CRAIG K. HIRAI  
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HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2301

**February 10, 2020  
1:50 p.m.  
Room 224**

RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on the creation of the Cigarette Litter Abatement Special Fund (CLASF).

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2301 establishes the cigarette litter abatement fee (CLAF) to be deposited into the newly established CLASF under the administration of the Department of Health (DOH). The CLAF is a fee, for an unspecified amount, on each wholesaler or dealer for each cigarette sold, used, or possessed on and after July 1, 2020. The CLAF is in addition to any tax established by law and will be applied through the use of stamps. The CLAF shall be refunded or credited to the wholesaler or dealer if the fee is paid on cigarettes that later become the subject of a casualty loss deduction allowable under Chapter 235, HRS. S.B. No. 2301 also appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds for FY 21 for the purposes of the CLASF.

Funds from the CLASF may be used: to refund any overpayment of the CLAF; on outreach and education to curb improper cigarette litter disposal; for costs to collect and remove cigarette litter from public lands and public spaces; and to reimburse a

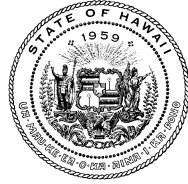
county for costs that a county incurs from collecting and removing cigarette litter on public lands and public spaces within its control. Revenue sources for the CLASF include: moneys collected from the CLAF; legislative appropriations; gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and private persons; and all interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in the CLASF.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 2301, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

B&F defers to DOH and the Department of Taxation on the programmatic and fee collection aspects of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR  
**JOSH GREEN M.D.**  
LT. GOVERNOR



**RONA M. SUZUKI**  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION  
**DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
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To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;  
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair;  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director  
Department of Taxation

**Re: S.B. 2301, Relating to Litter Control**

Date: Monday, February 10, 2020

Time: 1:50 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 2301 and offers the following comments.

S.B. 2301 establishes a cigarette litter abatement fee in Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which governs the Cigarette and Tobacco Tax. The fee is imposed on wholesalers and dealers at an unspecified rate per cigarette sold, used, or possessed. The new fee is imposed beginning July 1, 2020.

The Department notes that there are unintended consequences of labeling an amount a “fee” versus “tax.” For example, many of the penalties for noncompliance with the tax laws are worded specifically to deal with evasion of tax or failure to pay tax. Some civil penalties are worded such that the penalty is added to and becomes part of the tax owed. A person failing to pay the fee established under this bill may not be subject to any of these penalties.

To avoid this, the Department suggests making this a tax by amending section 245-3, HRS, and allocating the revenue from the increase in tax to the Cigarette Litter Abatement Special Fund created by this measure

Finally, the Department requests this bill be made effective no earlier than January 1, 2021 to allow time for necessary changes to the forms and instructions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2301  
RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: 2/10/2020

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown. This measure may impact the priorities identified in the  
2 Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)  
3 appropriations and personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department offers comments on SB2301. This measure creates a  
5 cigarette litter abatement special fund, from which the Department may (1) conduct outreach and  
6 education to curb improper cigarette litter disposal; (2) use for costs to collect and remove  
7 cigarette litter from public lands and public spaces; and (3) reimburse a county for costs that  
8 county incurs from collecting and removing cigarette litter on public lands and public spaces  
9 within its control, pursuant to rules adopted by the Department.

10 The Department has not actively enforced state litter laws under Hawaii Revised Statutes  
11 Chapter 339 since the abolishment of the Litter Control Office in the late 1990s. To carry out the  
12 duties specified in this bill, the Department requests reestablishing positions with this fund, and  
13 allow for moneys from the fund to be expended on these positions.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Cigarette Litter Abatement Fee

BILL NUMBER: SB 2301

INTRODUCED BY: DELA CRUZ, INOUE, KIDANI, Kanuha, Shimabukuro

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a cigarette litter abatement fee to be imposed on each cigarette sold in the State, the proceeds of which shall be deposited into a cigarette litter abatement special fund. Provides that the cigarette litter abatement special fund shall be used to cover the costs of collecting and removing cigarette litter and providing outreach and education to curb improper cigarette litter disposal. Increased tobacco taxes are having an effect on consumption, which means the tax cannot be expected to produce stable funding. Lawmakers may want to consider direct appropriations to programs now being supported by earmarks from this tax.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 245, HRS, to impose upon a tobacco wholesaler or dealer a cigarette litter abatement fee equal to \$\_\_\_\_\_ for each cigarette. The fee shall be applied using stamps.

If stamped cigarettes thereafter become the subject of a casualty loss deduction allowable under the income tax law, the fee paid shall be refunded.

The fee will be subject to the same limitations applicable to the tobacco tax as stated in section 245-3(b), including that sales to the federal government are exempt and the taxes shall be paid only once with respect to the same cigarettes or tobacco products.

Adds a new section to chapter 339, HRS, to establish a special fund into which the fee will be deposited. The fund will be expended by the Department of Health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2020.

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure can be viewed as a hike in the cigarette tax. It is functionally the same thing.

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

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

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

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

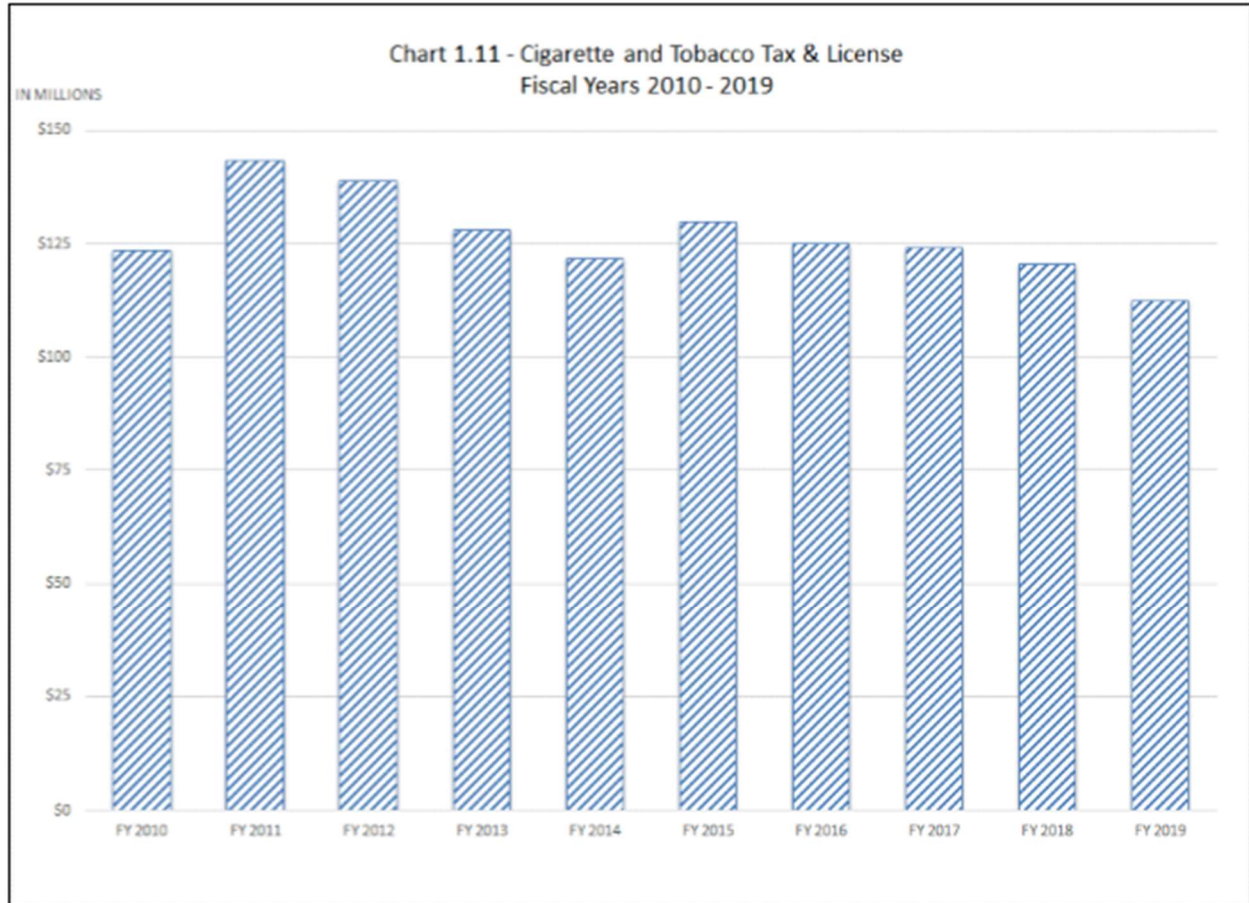
The problem is that lawmakers also like the revenues that are generated from the sales of these products and, in some cases, they have tried to link the use and sale of these products with noble causes such as the funding of the Cancer Research Center that is currently being built. Again, the argument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

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

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

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

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



Source: Department of Taxation Annual Report (2018-2019), page 24.

If the goal is to affect social behavior, use of the tax law is not the most effective way to do so.

Digested 1/30/2020

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:26:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:





## HIPHI Board

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McCorriston Miller Mukai  
MacKinnon LLP

Date: February 9, 2020

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Committee

Re: Support for SB 2301, Relating to Litter Control

Hrg: February 10, 2020 at 1:50 PM at Conference Room 224

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The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **Support of SB 2301** which establishes a cigarette litter abatement fee and special fund. Revenues from the special fund are to be used for cigarette litter education, outreach, and removal.

Cigarettes are the most littered item in the world, with more than 45 trillion cigarettes littered each year. The disposed cigarette butts pose a serious environmental hazard, as they leach toxic chemicals that can contaminate the environment and poison animals, and the filters inside contribute to plastic waste. According to the Truth Initiative, cities spend between \$3 million and \$16 million on cigarette clean-up<sup>ii</sup>.

In addition, imposing an additional fee on cigarettes for litter abatement could result in an overall price increase, a proven strategy to reduce consumption on tobacco products for both adults and youth. For every 10 percent increase in cigarette prices, youth smoking will reduce by about seven percent and total cigarette consumption by about four percent<sup>iii</sup>.

Tobacco use is still the number one preventable cause of death and costs our State \$526 million annually. Imposing a litter abatement fee may have the positive effect of both reducing smoking and helping to offset some of the costs of tobacco in the state.

The Coalition supports SB 2301 and asks you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,



Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director

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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> 5 ways cigarette litter impacts the environment. (2017, April 21). Retrieved 2019, from Truth Initiative website: <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/5-ways-cigarette-litter-impacts-environment>

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2012). *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Retrieved from [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf\\_NBK99237.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK99237.pdf)

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:56:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Younkin	Testifying for Island Divers	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Carrie Younkin and I strongly support SB2301. I work for Island Divers as a DiveMaster and am also getting my Masters degree in Conservation Biology at UH. I have been living and scuba diving in Hawaii for many years and have seen first hand the devastation that litter can play on our environment, especially our precious marine environment.

As you may or may not know, cigarette butts are made of a plastic called cellulose acetate and when they are tossed out, they dump not only that plastic, but also the nicotine, heavy metals and many other chemicals they've absorbed into the surrounding environment. Cigarette butts are the most collected trash during beach clean ups but on our small islands they quickly make their way into the ocean. They also are found in the stomachs of many dead marine animals, such as the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle and other endemic species, like the Shearwater and Petrel seabirds, just to name a couple.

I strongly support this cigarette litter abatement fee to be imposed on each cigarette sold in the state of Hawaii as well as the funds to be used to cover the costs of collecting and removing cigarette litter and providing outreach and education to stop improper cigarette litter disposal.

MAHALO!

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 5:51:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 11:35:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:26:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 2:18:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:36:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I still haven't quit smoking and I support this bill. There is no excuse for the litter.



**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:31:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

This is yet another unfair tax that punishes those who dispose of used smoking materials properly along with those who litter. Why should responsible smokers pay a penalty because other smokers are irresponsible? It disproportionately affects the poor, who already are struggling to make ends meet. Every year, the Hawai'i state legislature enacts more and more legislation to increase taxation, and every year the cost of living increases. People are leaving Hawai'i because of the high cost of living. Stop this bill now. Vote NO on SB2301.

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:17:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james. e. dodson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

So tired of seeing cigarette butts all over our state and endangering our people and more importantly wild life and environment. We need this bill passed! Both locals and tourists guilty of randomly throwing butts on the ground with no regard to the impact.

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:08:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sjon Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe that a fee imposed on cigarettes will not only help our current issues of littering, but will help in the protection of our oceans and waterways. Cigarette pollution is a horrible thing, and something so many people do, so having funds to educate both locals and tourists about the hazards will benefit all of the State of Hawai'i.

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:48:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Tucker	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

This bill is one that truly has my support. I am a person who supports people in what decisions they make. You want to smoke then smoke. I am not a person who supports littering and throwing away your habit wherever you want to when you are done. We are lucky to live in a beautiful location where many people can only dream to visit. The beaches are one of the biggest reasons visitors come to check out this paradise on Earth. It is a sad sight, that many times while I take a casual stroll on the beach(s) I see countless remnants of cigarettes everywhere. Now, imagine that you spent your life saving to come to see paradise one time and that is what you see. I would be kind of disappointed, how about you? This not only looks bad but many of these remnants end up in our waters and in the marine life. Some of us who fish may end up eating these fish and now the cycle has come full circle. Beach cleanups are great and do wonders for marine life and our beaches, but we can always do more. This bill is just another step we can take to create a better Hawaii and possibly a better world if more would/do get involved. I see this as, Neil Armstrong put it "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind". Let's be the pioneers of this and create a trend that really matters.

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:07:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2301, as cigarette butts are toxic and often eaten by turtles and other marine creatures.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 4:48:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Deneen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2301.

My husband and I moved to Waikiki nearly four years ago. I regularly walk around our neighborhood to collect trash. There is so much trash along the sidewalks and on the Ala Wai canal that I can easily fill multiple garbage bags during a single outing. The vast majority of the trash that I see is cigarette butts. It makes me sad to see our beautiful island and waterway filled with so much garbage!

I am so disturbed about the litter, that I have done some research on the subject. Most of the 5.6 trillion cigarettes that are manufactured/consumed worldwide every year come with filters that are made with cellulose acetate, a form of plastic. It can take up to 10 years to decompose. (Taken from the CA Dept of Public Health Tobacco Control Program and NBC News story dated 8/26/18). According to Thomas Novotny, Founder of the Cigarette Butt Pollution Project and professor of public health at San Diego State University, two-thirds of those filters are irresponsibly dumped every year. It is the single most littered item on Earth. In the U.S., 360 billion cigarettes are consumed annually, leading to 135 million pounds of discarded butts (Fact Sheet from the CA Dept of Public Health Tobacco Control Program).

Not only are the cigarette butts unsightly, they are harming our environment. First, the waste disintegrates into microplastics that are easily consumed by wildlife, thus entering our food chain. Also, cigarette butts contain the same toxic chemicals found in the cigarettes, such as arsenic and nicotine. These toxins are released into the ground and water affecting plants, animals, and people. Lastly, lit cigarette butts have been linked to wildfires. As residents of Hawaii and tourists who visit deserve cleaner islands, cleaner beaches and parks, more healthy food and less wildfires.

Since indoor smoking bans have pushed smokers outdoors, we need better infrastructure to collect the waste and keep butts off the street. Surfrider's San Francisco chapter, for example, has installed 100 cans in select neighborhoods in the city. In the areas where the cans have been installed and educating people to use them, they have seen reductions in cigarette litter of more than 60 percent.

The waste collected can be recycled through Terracycle: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/cigarette-waste-recycling> where they turn the filters into plastic products. A scientist in Australia is experimenting with bricks made of cigarette filters.

Litter, and more specifically cigarette butts, have a damaging effect on Hawaii's economy:

- Taxpayer money is spent on litter abatement
- Burning cigarette butts can cause fires, especially in areas with dry brush
- Being unsightly, cigarette butts contribute to the loss of tourist revenue in historic and natural destination spots
- Litter can lower property values
- It can lead to more serious problems including vandalism, graffiti, and illegal dumping (the broken window theory)
- The damaging and long-term effects on local seafood due to the plastic fibers and leaching toxins
- The costs associated with treating diseases related to smoking in general are staggering

I am passionate about taking care of our island home and thank you in advance for passing this bill.

MAHALO!

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:58:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mia Charleston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I can personally attest that out of all the trash I have collected in beach cleanup over the past 15 years living in Hawaii, cigarette butts are the main source of garbage that I have seen. This particular type of litter is a huge problem not only marine life such as green or hawksbill turtles but also to native hawaiian seabirds, some of which are endangered. We have protected so many animals by passing the plastic bag ban in Hawaii (thank you for passing that bill) with the understanding that by not offering them at stores it is a preventative measure to prevent animals from ingesting plastic. I think that the collection of cigarette butts goes along the same lines.

Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,

Mia Charleston



**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:52:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaitlyn P Jacobs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Not only are cigarettes a deterrent because of smell, but they also are small enough to find their way into the crevices of Honolulu. I see cigarette butts on beaches, streets, floating in the ocean, and even in carcasses of seabirds. This litter is pervasive and we should work to clean our streets. In addition, a small tax on the cigarettes might be enough for people to really commit to quitting, so I feel this bill would be a win-win for the environment as well as public health.

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 5:52:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terry Lynch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is very much needed to keep the beauty of our island -- and esp our beaches. Please support this measure!

**SB-2301**

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:07:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

I write in support of Senate Bill 2301.

I support the cigarette litter abatement special fund. This measure is a Pigouvian tax, meaning that it imposes a financial expense that will reduce negative social costs through reducing individual behavior.

We as a society have come a long way on cigarettes. Even I can remember bars and restaurants, passenger cars with children, public facilities, and houses commonly filled with cigarette smoke. In my lifetime the plentitude of cigarette litter has dwindled. Yet this litter is still too plentiful, as these products contain microfibers and still pose a visceral assault on our scenic and biological resources in a tourism-powered economy. Because we are also citizens of a State with contrained revenue growth owing to the lack of economic diversification, we may have an extra incentive to tax sources of undesireable ills like litter.

I thank Senator Dela Cruz for introducing this measure. Please pass SB2301.

Thank you,  
Dylan P. Armstrong