



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 887, SD2
RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Taxation
2 (DOTAX) on fiscal implications.

3 **Department Testimony:** DOH supports Senate Bill 887, Senate Draft 2 (S.B. 887, SD2) to
4 increase the excise tax for cigarettes and little cigars as this is an effective public health measure
5 to reduce smoking and prevent youth initiation of smoking. The Department is not commenting
6 on the allocation of funds resulting from the increased revenues.

7 According to the U.S. Surgeon General, increasing the price of tobacco products is the
8 single most effective way to reduce consumption.¹ A ten percent increase in price has been
9 estimated to reduce overall cigarette consumption by three to five percent.² Research suggests
10 that both youth and young adults are two to three times more likely to respond to increases in

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012 [accessed 2018 Jan 22].

² Ibid

1 price than adults.³ Moreover, studies show that raised cigarette prices have effectively reduced
2 smoking among some ethnic minorities, lower-income smokers, and pregnant women.^{4,5}

3 On both federal and state levels, increases in tobacco taxes have generated more calls to
4 quitlines. After the 2009 federal tobacco tax increase passed, calls to the national quitline (1-
5 800-QUIT-NOW), increased by 30 percent in the year following as compared to the year prior.⁶
6 After Oklahoma passed a \$1.00 increase per cigarette pack tax in July 2018, the state's Tobacco
7 Helpline saw an increase of 85 percent in registrations in the first month compared to the same
8 time the year prior.⁷ Wisconsin experienced a record-breaking 20,000 calls in the first two
9 months after it passed a \$1.00 increase per cigarette pack tax, whereas it typically received 9,000
10 calls per year.⁸ Hawaii has benefited from the effort of policymakers who enacted tobacco taxes
11 and provided funding for services through the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline, and community-based
12 cessation grants. The prevention policies and cessation programs from 2000 to 2017 resulted in
13 9,400 fewer youth and 73,300 adult smokers, and 700 fewer pregnant smokers, resulting in \$1
14 billion in total healthcare savings.⁹

15 Hawaii currently has the sixth highest tax rate in the nation.¹⁰ The proposed tax increase
16 of 5 cents for each cigarette or little cigar sold would elevate Hawaii's tax rate from \$3.20 per

³ Ibid

⁴ See, e.g., CDC, "Responses to Cigarette Prices By Race/Ethnicity, Income, and Age Groups – United States 1976-1993," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 47(29):605-609, July 31, 1998, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00054047.htm>. Chaloupka, FJ & Pacula, R, An Examination of Gender and Race Differences in Youth Smoking Responsiveness to Price and Tobacco Control Policies, National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 6541, April 1998. Oredein, T & Foulds, J, "Causes of the Decline in Cigarette Smoking Among African American Youths From the 1970s to the 1990s," American Journal of Public Health e1-e11, doi:10.2105/AJPH.2011.300289, August 18, 2011.

⁵ Ringel, J & Evans, W, "Cigarette Taxes and Smoking During Pregnancy," American Journal of Public Health 91(11):1851-6, 2001. See also, TFK Factsheet, Harm Caused by Pregnant Women Smoking or Being Exposed to Secondhand Smoke, <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0007.pdf>.

⁶ Analysis of data from calls to 1-800-QUIT-NOW. Retrieved from Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Raising Cigarette Taxes Reduces Smoking, Especially Among Kids (And the Cigarette Companies Know It). December 11, 2018. Retrieved February 11, 2019 from <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0146.pdf>

⁷ Collins, E, "Tobacco tax hike has more Oklahoma smokers trying to quit," KOKH, August 9, 2018, <https://ktul.com/news/local/tobaccotax-hike-has-more-oklahomans-trying-to-quit>.

⁸ "Calls to Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line breaks all records," The Dunn County News, March 12, 2008. Retrieved from Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Raising Cigarette Taxes Reduces Smoking, Especially Among Kids (And the Cigarette Companies Know It). December 11, 2018. Retrieved February 11, 2019 from <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0146.pdf>

⁹ Holmes, et al. 2018. Tobacco Landscape. Hawaii Department of Health Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division.

¹⁰ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. State Cigarette Excise Tax Rates & Rankings. December 21, 2018.

1 cigarette pack to \$4.20 per pack. The last time there was a tax increase on cigarettes in Hawaii
2 was in 2011 when taxes were raised from 15 cents per stick in 2010 to 16 cents per stick in 2011.
3 The Department supports S.B. 887, SD2 to reduce the public health burden of tobacco use and
4 cigarette consumption which are still the leading causes of preventable chronic disease and early
5 death. The Department defers to the DOTAX regarding allocation of revenues to the designated
6 special funds.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

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

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 887, S.D. 2, Relating to Tobacco Taxes

The Department of Taxation (Department) provides the following comments regarding S.B. 887, S.D. 2, for your consideration.

S.B. 887, S.D. 2, raises the tax on cigarettes and little cigars from 16 cents per cigarette or little cigar to 21 cents per cigarette or little cigar, effective for cigarettes and little cigars sold on or after July 1, 2020. This measure also amends the allocation of cigarette stamp tax revenue. The tax provisions of S.D. 2 have a defective effective date of July 1, 2051.

The Department notes that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health amended the effective date of the tax increase at the Department's request. The Department appreciates the consideration of its testimony and notes that it can administer this measure as currently drafted, provided a functional effective date is inserted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA
Director, University of Cancer Center

And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 887 SD2 – RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES

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

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center) supports this bill as currently written.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 70 institutions in the U.S. that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

The UH Cancer Center is a leader nationally in research focused on tobacco control and tobacco-related cancer prevention. Faculty at the UH Cancer Center have been recognized as international leaders in research into the health effects of e-cigarettes and have been selected as members of National commissions engaged in policy recommendations.

While the UH Cancer Center supports efforts to reduce consumption and thereby mitigate the adverse effects of tobacco products. The Bill as written will promote a reduction in tobacco use while retaining support of the UH Cancer Center building expenses and smoking related cancer prevention research and tobacco control programs.

The Bill as written will allow for sustainable fiscal operations at the only NCI designated cancer center in the Pacific and will support ongoing tobacco and cancer prevention research efforts that will greatly benefit the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:55:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems, please accept our support for SB887 SD2. Mahalo!



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare for All"

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

March 14, 2019
Conference Room 329
9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 887, SD 2
Relating to Tobacco Taxes.

Increases the cigarette and tobacco tax on cigarettes and little cigars by five cents beginning July 1, 2020. Allocates excise tax revenue generated at the increased rate to specified health improvement purposes beginning July 1, 2020.

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) board of directors is in **support of SB 887, SD 2.**

HHSC appreciates the Legislature's attention to the needs of our nine hospitals across the state. We support this measure as it would provide additional funding to assist HHSC's efforts to provide quality health services, while also reducing the need for general fund appropriations. These comments are limited to the parts of this measure pertaining to HHSC, as we are unable to fully analyze the impact on other health programs that receive funding.

Nationwide, there has been a direct correlation between the increase in the price of cigarettes and decreased consumption. According to the Hawaii State Department of Health, 2011 was the last tax increase passed on cigarettes. Reducing the overall burden of tobacco related disease in the communities we serve is an added benefit of this measure.

Passage of SB 887, SD2 would provide additional revenue to sustain HHSC's state-wide safety net of healthcare services.

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



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March 13, 2019

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2019
TIME: 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 887, Includes distilled beverages containing spirits and added blending materials that contain less than twelve per cent of alcohol by volume in the cooler beverage definition. Deletes definition of draft beer. Applies the tax rate on draft beer to all beer.

I'm writing on behalf of our small, local family-operated business, Big Island Brewhaus in Kamuela on the Big Island. We support **HB 887** which includes redefining distilled beverages containing spirits and added blending materials that contain less than twelve per cent of alcohol by volume in the cooler beverage definition. Deletes definition of draft beer. Applies the tax rate on draft beer to all beer. Currently the definition of draft does not include very common small 5 gallon kegs which are taxed at a much higher rate of .93 cents per gallon. Draft beer should at least include all kegged beer that is packaged in a re-useable keg. We actually re-use some kegs as small as 2.5 gallons.

These measures can help authentic Hawaiian Craft Breweries continue to grow local manufacturing creating an incentive to grow and reinvest in equipment and employees.

A passage of this bill will help create more jobs, help pay more wages, to create new products, and allow breweries to grow not only in numbers but in volume, and ultimately reinvest in our communities growing the overall industry of locally made beverages.

Hawaiian manufacturing and producers operate under the highest cost conditions of any State. This has served to limit the availability of true, locally produced selections and give rise to a host of "faux-Hawaiian" products. As an isolated State we must invest in local manufacturing, these are jobs with good wages and benefits that can provide careers for our residents. Further if Hawaii is to continue to compete in the world of tourism it is important for us to deliver an

authentic Hawaiian experience in our products; this bill helps us to continue on our path of recent growth and success.

Big Island Brewhaus was founded initially in 2008 with 9 original employees as a community gathering place serving local cuisine and hand-crafted beers. We have grown into a team of 40 Big Island residents that sells award winning beers throughout Hawaii and is focused on using local sources for our food and beer. We have done this in the face of significant challenges to growth at all levels; financial, shipping, taxation, legislative and more. Changes like this bill can help us continue our success and help others to do the same. We appreciate the ongoing support of all individuals and legislators who support issues which enable local manufacturers and businesses to thrive in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration, We urge you pass this bill. Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 887.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Kerns

Thomas Kerns
Founder & Brewer
Big Island Brewhaus
64-1066 Mamalahoa Highway
Kamuela, HI, 96743
BigIslandBrewhaus@yahoo.com
Cell# 808-276-3301

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 3:11:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Chandler	JT International USA Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

JT International U.S.A., Inc. ("JTI USA"), an importer and distributor of tobacco products based in Teaneck, NJ, believes that tobacco products carry risks to health.

JTI also believes emphatically that:

- Minors should not smoke, and should not be able to obtain tobacco products.
- Adult smokers should be appropriately informed about the health risks of smoking before they begin smoking.

JTI USA supports appropriate and proportionate regulation that is based on evidence and sound science. However, the proposed tax increase in SB 887, which would increase the cigarette tax by \$1, is not based on sound scientific evidence and will cause a host of unintended consequences.

We believe the contemplated legislation to increase the state excise tax (SET) to \$4.20 would be a short-lived bid to increase revenue from cigarette taxes, with long-lasting effects on tax-paying businesses and our adult consumers in Hawaii.

Other states that have increased cigarette excise taxes between 75 cents and \$1.75 per pack experienced a 20 to 30 percent drop in legal cigarette volumes in the years following the increase. This in turn resulted in significant financial shortfalls for those states.

As we have seen, budgetary projections based on historic sales, especially on a product category in decline, does not represent sound fiscal policy.

A dramatic tax increase will increase the existing demand for products from illicit sources, depriving the hardworking retailers of Hawaii. Once Hawaii residents are incentivized to purchase tobacco products from these illicit sources, even current levels of excise revenue might not be realized in the future, in addition to any subsequent loss in sales tax revenue.

History has proved that very few cigarette tax increases have actually been able to generate the extra tax receipts promised. At worst, this could open Hawaii up to further

illicit sales of tobacco products by criminals, who have no regard for the law, regulatory compliance or age verification.

Criminals can simply step in to meet the existing demand with cigarettes from the surrounding lower tax states. This, in turn, would undermine any objectives to reduce youth access to tobacco products, as those selling illegal products do not care about complying with the law or verifying minimum purchase age.

We firmly believe that excise tax rates should be reasonable and based on public policy goals – not to plug up budget holes.

This proposed SET increase is an unpredictable, unsustainable option to temporarily increase state excise tax revenue and will hurt the state's retailer community and ultimately punish adult consumers.

Instead, we urge Hawaii lawmakers to reject this measure and find more sustainable ways to increase revenue in the state.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:33:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keanu Esser	Irie Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:51:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
VALENTINO MIRANDA-KEPA	Irie Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a retailer, a tax increase will result in another decrease in sales of cigarettes and tobacco products. The over 21 year old adults who patronize our store will look for alternative sources for their tobacco products, whether that is buying their preferred products in a neighboring state with lower tax rates or over the Internet to avoid state excise taxes and sales tax altogether. When our customers look for less expensive sources for their cigarettes and tobacco products, we also lose sales of other products that they would otherwise buy in the store.

Our business model includes cigarettes and tobacco products as a significant part of total in-store sales. This is why a tax increase can be so detrimental because we are unable to replace the lost sales of cigarettes and tobacco with other products. We provide good jobs at competitive wages and a tax increase will only result in reducing our profitability and consequently the wages we can pay and the jobs we offer.

Finally, excise taxes are some of the most regressive forms of taxation that fall most heavily on individuals with lower incomes. This higher tax burden is unfair to our customers who have limited incomes.

As a lawmaker, I urge you to consider the concerns of all retailers and oppose Senate Bill 887.

Aloha and Mahalo.

Valentino Miranda-Kepa

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:52:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariner Revell	Irie Hawaii Stores	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose bill SB887. We are taxed to death in Hawaii! Where will these funds go to? We pay some of the highest tobacco taxes in the nation already please stop the over taxing of our people!

I am very dissapointed with how the state spends current Tobacco tax money, it is WASTED! I have seen much waste on the part of the state via BRAND NEW University of Hawaii confrence rooms that were built at the UH Medical school with Tobacco Tax funds. As noted by House representatives these rooms were unused and funds were WASTED!

Where are the funds going wiull our money be wasted yet again? Tobacco Taxes were intended to go towards medical expenses related to ilnesses caused by Tobacco, however these funds now go wasted and the rest go to the general fund? Why?

Stop the over taxation of our people and stop the WASTE of tax dollars!

Thank you



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

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

SB 887, SD2 – RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 887, SD2, which increases the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars sold on or after July 1, 2020, to twenty-one cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold with proceeds funding public health initiatives. Measure is effective 7/1/2050.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Regular, significant increases in the retail price of cigarettes reduce the number of people who begin smoking and increase the number of smokers who quit.

- Significant increases in the price of cigarettes leads to a reduction in overall cigarette consumption and a reduction in youth consumption.
- Low-income adults, youth, and pregnant women are especially likely to quit or reduce their smoking when the price increases.
- Lower smoking rates translate into fewer smoking-related cancers and premature deaths, reduced spending on smoking-related health problems, and more productive workers.

Small tax increase amounts do not produce significant public health benefits or cost savings because tobacco companies can easily offset the beneficial impact of such small increases with temporary price cuts, coupons, and other promotional discounting. Increasing the tax rate with inflation will also help to ensure that the public health and revenue benefits of the tax increase do not diminish as quickly over time.

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



American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 887, SB2 Relating to Tobacco Taxes with suggested amendment

Chairman of the Board

Mark Yamakawa

President

Kahealani Rivera, MD

Board Members

Rick Bruno, MD, FACEP
Brandt Farias
Mimi Harris
David Honma
Glen Kaneshige
Brandon Kurisu
Howard Lee
Michael Lui, MD
Kazuma Nakagawa, MD,
FAAN, FAHA
Barbara Petrus
Andrew Rosen
Dave Underriner
Elisa Yadao

Serving Hawaii since 1948

Mission Statement:

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

For more information on
the AHA’s educational or
research programs, visit
www.heart.org or contact
your nearest AHA office.

Office: (808) 377-6630

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Neighbor Islands:

Serviced by the Oahu
office

The American Heart Association supports SB 887, SB2 which increases the cigarette tax to 21 cents per cigarette or little cigar sold. However, because Hawaii does not invest in tobacco and prevention and control programs at the CDC’s recommended levels, the AHA recommends amending the bill to allocate a portion of the tobacco tax revenue to that purpose.

A one-time sizeable cigarette tax increase of at least \$1 per pack (5-cents per stick) would have a greater impact on reducing smoking rates, especially on the lower income and youth markets, which are more price sensitive, and which are the most highly targeted by tobacco industry marketing and advertising.

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

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

Smokers who do not reduce their smoking because of a cigarette tax increase will also still benefit economically, along with every other state taxpayer. In Hawaii alone, tobacco use claims 1,400 lives each year and creates \$526 million in annual health care costs directly caused by smoking (\$141.7 million of that is covered by the state Medicaid program). Hawaii residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures is \$836 per household. Hawaii’s estimated tobacco tax revenue, estimated to be approximately \$110 million per year, does not come close to offsetting the losses to the state caused by tobacco use. Smoking declines caused by state cigarette tax increases directly reduce these smoking-caused economic burdens for all taxpayers, and Hawaii businesses which bear the brunt of employee healthcare costs in our state.

Those who stop smoking in response to cigarette tax increases will greatly improve their own health, which could also significantly reduce their healthcare costs. Because of their

higher rate of illness and disability, smokers have substantially higher annual and lifetime healthcare costs than nonsmokers or former smokers (despite living shorter lives).

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

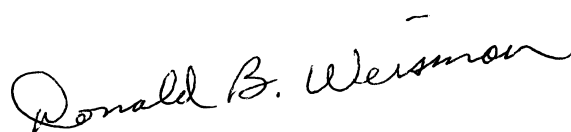
Hawaii has made great strides in reducing tobacco use, but despite these advances, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in our state and challenges to tobacco control still exist. Hawaii's current adult smoking prevalence (12.8%) remains higher than the national Healthy People 2020 target of 12%. Moreover, our low smoking rates can conceal the fact that smoking continues to disproportionately affect populations and community groups by race and ethnicity, income and education, mental health and substance abuse, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) orientation. These subpopulations silently bear the brunt of the tobacco use burden in our state. Additionally, the rapid rise in youth fascination with ESDs and other novel products which have proven to be gateway products to traditional tobacco product use and threaten our cumulative efforts to free the next generation from the deadly effects of nicotine addiction.

To insure that this tax increase has the desired health impact, the AHA particularly supports the allocation of additional cigarette tax revenue to prevention and control programs. Low-income smokers and their communities disproportionately benefit when the new revenues from cigarette tax increases are directed to programs to help people quit smoking and prevent kids from starting – both because smoking is more prevalent among low-income persons and because they may have much less access or exposure to any such programs than people with higher incomes.

The tobacco industry spends an estimated \$25.5 million each year marketing its products in Hawaii. Hawaii's \$5.3 million investment in tobacco prevention, control and cessation programs pale in comparison, and falls well short of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) best practice recommendation of a \$13.7 million annual investment. The Hawaii legislature last increased Hawaii's cigarette tax in 2006. Since that time, inflation of approximately 18% has decreased the value of the cigarette tax to below 85 cents on the dollar.

More community funding is needed to both address tobacco prevention, control and cessation in Hawaii's disparately-affected populations to reduce their smoking rates to levels comparable to Hawaii's broader adult population, as well as to address skyrocketing youth initiation into tobacco through use of electronic smoking devices. An increase in Hawaii's cigarette tax would help to provide the needed funding to address one of the leading major health risks among Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

Please support HB 887, SB2 with the AHA's recommended amendment to allocate a portion of the tobacco tax revenue to boost the investment in community tobacco prevention, control and cessation programs.



Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:17:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Robinson	Irie Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 14, 2019**

Re: SB 887 SD1 Relating to Tobacco Tax

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 SB 887 SD2 Relating to Tobacco Taxes. This measure increases the cigarette and tobacco tax on cigarettes and little cigars by five cents beginning July 1, 2020. Allocates excise tax revenue generated at the increased rate to specified health improvement purposes beginning July 1, 2020. Effective 7/1/2050.

Many retailers statewide are already operating on a thin margin and face stiff competition. Raising the tobacco tax and permit fee by 30% will truly hurt locally owned businesses. More people will begin to purchase tobacco products cheaper on the black market or on line or at military retail outlets where they are tax free. Tobacco products may even be more sought after by organized retail crime. The small locally owned businesses' may potentially be forced to close. This would mean the convenient corner store would be gone and leaving people out of work.

The retailers are not the ones selling the cigarettes and the vaping devices to those who are under 21 years of age. Many of who are underage are obtaining their cigarettes and vaping devices from their parents or older friends or purchasing them on the black market. We have seen a significant spike in theft and tobacco products are a favorite to be stolen. Those selling the stolen goods do not card to see how old someone is.

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase Tobacco Tax Rate on Cigarettes and Little Cigars

BILL NUMBER: SB 887, SD-2

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Ways & Means

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This is a 30%+ tax increase beginning on 7/1/19 on cigarettes and little cigars. The increased 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: Amends HRS 245-3 to increase the tax on cigarettes and little cigars to 20 cents per unit sold, used, or possessed by the wholesaler or dealer on and after 7/1/16.

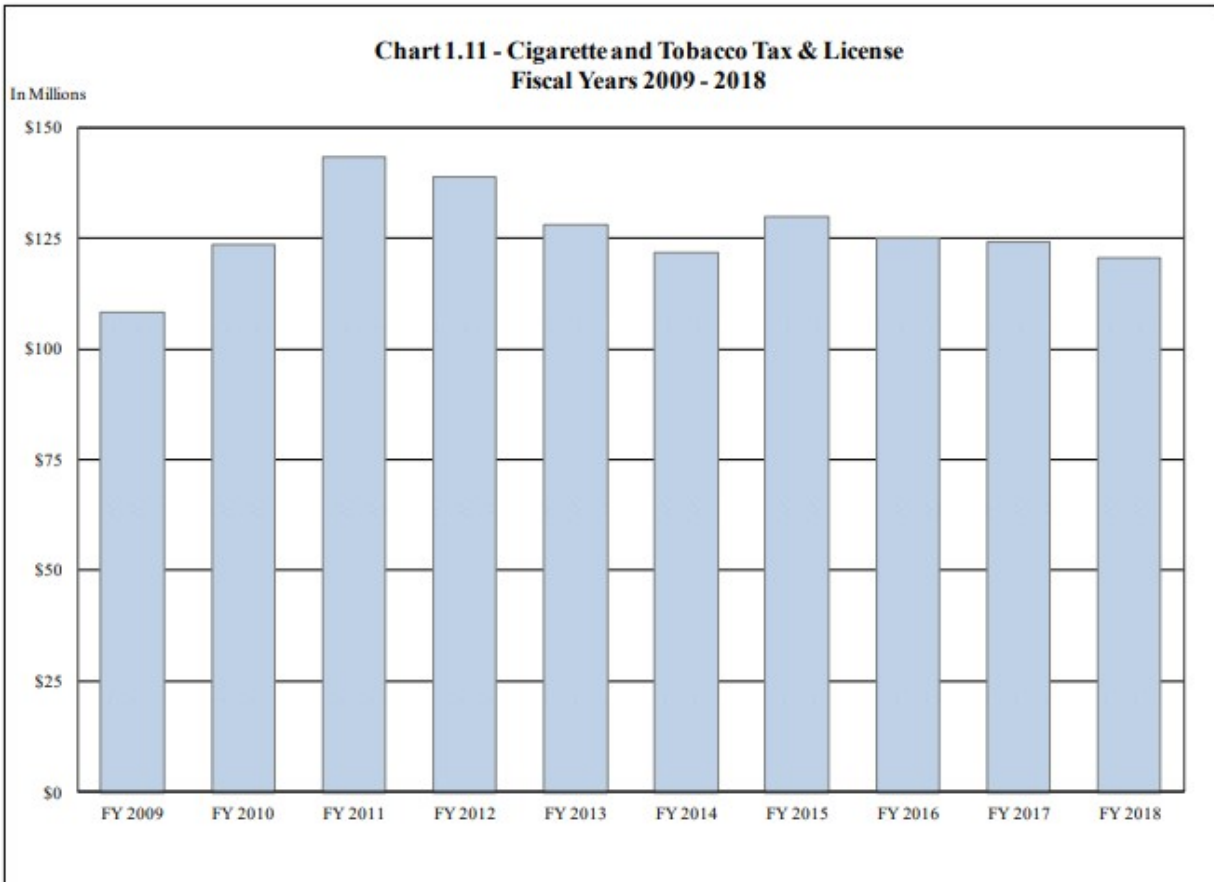
Amends HRS section 245-15 to provide that the revenue generated under the rate increase shall be distributed as follows:

- 3.0 cents per unit to the Hawaii cancer research special fund (up from 2.0 cents);
- 1.125 cents per unit, but not more than \$7,400,000 in a fiscal year, to the trauma system special fund (same as current law);
- 2.92 cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the community health centers special fund (up from 1.25 cents);
- 1.25 cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the emergency medical services special fund (same as current law);
- 1.67 cents per unit, with no maximum, to a special account of the state general fund for expenditure to repay medical school loans of graduates of the John A. Burns school of medicine, who practice in primary care in the medically underserved population areas of this State, as determined by the John A. Burns school of medicine (new); and
- 1.66 cents per unit to the health systems special fund (new); and
- Any excess goes to the general fund.

Makes conforming amendments to section 232F-21, HRS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050; the tax hike and the revenue reallocation are effective July 1, 2051.

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure is clearly a tax hike. Previous increases have begun to have an effect on collections not only locally but also nationally. Collections have fallen below their previous levels, and the increase in the legal smoking age from 18 to 21 also is anticipated to have a negative effect on consumption.



Source: Department of Taxation Annual Report (2018)

For whatever reason, the rise in rate has jeopardized this source of revenue. If nothing else, lawmakers need to make up their minds whether or not they see this tax as a source of revenue or a means by which to deter consumption.

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.

Do we really need an elaborate study to tell ourselves that fiscal reliance on funds from a sin tax is inadvisable or outright dangerous? If the goal is to affect social behavior, use of the tax law is not the most effective way to do so.

Digested 3/12/2019

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:58:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We continue to stand in strong opposition to SB887. The cigarette tax is already over-exploited to the point where no sane person believes that a further increase will result in more long term funds. Furthermore the proposed large tax increase will certainly anger your constituents that smoke.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:51:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dillon rellez	irie hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:



HIPHI Board

Michael
Robinson, MBA, MA
Chair
Hawaii Pacific Health

Mark Levin, JD
Secretary
William S. Richardson School
of Law

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Treasurer
KM Consulting LLC

Joy Barua, MBA
Kaiser Permanente

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Retired, Daniel K. Inouye
College of Pharmacy

Debbie Erskine
Kamehameha Schools

Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula, PhD
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Native Hawaiian Health

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
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Rachel Novotny,
PhD, RDN, LD
University of Hawaii at Manoa,
College of Tropical Agriculture
and Human Resources

Catherine Taschner, JD
McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office

En Young, MBA
Sansei, Lanai

Date: March 13, 2019

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

Re: Support for SB887 SD2, Relating to Tobacco Taxes

Hrg: March 14, 2019 at 9:00am at Conference Room 329

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **Support of SB 887 SD2** which increases the cigarette tax by five cents and specifies revenue increases to be dedicated to specified health improvement purposes.

The Coalition supports an increase in taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products. Raising taxes is a proven strategy to reduce consumption on tobacco products for both adults and youth. The Coalition notes that there has not been an increase in taxes on cigarettes and little cigars in the last eight years and for other tobacco products, other than large cigars, the last tax increase occurred in 2009.

Majority of registered Hawai'i voters support an increase in cigarette taxes (74%) and nine in ten registered voters (94%) feel that it is important for the State to dedicate part of its revenue to tobacco prevention and cessation programsⁱⁱ. Populations at risk that continue to experience higher rates of smoking would be the primary beneficiaries of these education and cessation activities, helping to provide them with the resources needed to quit smoking and to help curb the high costs associated with tobacco use. We humbly ask that a portion of the proposed tobacco tax revenue be dedicated to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Tobacco use is still the number one preventable cause of death and costs our State \$526 million annually. Raising tobacco taxes encourages people to quit smoking.

The Coalition supports SB887 SD2 and asks you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,



Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

ⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱ This study by Ward Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=804 Hawaii registered voters (maximum sampling error +/-3.3%), conducted between October 8 and November 2, 2018.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:54:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ned Garcia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm opposed to this unless it is changed to LOWER the taxes.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:01:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Winters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't want to get beat up with more of your taxes. Nobody respects us tax payers anymore on the health committee.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:06:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:17:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Patterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'll remember how you guys voted on this when I go to the polls next year to vote.
Oppose sb887.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:32:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is destroying the tax base with overtaxation.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:20:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Wolery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:28:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jason graham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a vapor i only oppose this for the simple reason that ecig and accessories will be easily included in this tax. Vaping is safer for adults on my opinion and adding additional taxes to it will lower the effectiveness for people to quit traditional smoking of combustible cigarettes. If the state were more for people to quit smoking cigarettes they would headline that product and not the products meant to provide a healthier alternative as well as a means to quit all together

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:34:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:58:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:37:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jericho Tobin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop this!

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:40:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi muronaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:44:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Punahele Victorino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:29:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ASHLEY MATTOS	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:37:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ricky Alaniz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 1:23:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Porter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 1:13:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ellen benton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I oppose this bill because it is outrageous and unfair. Living in Hawaii, we already deal with exorbitant costs on products due to taxation from importing goods from the Mainland U.S. I do not believe this bill serves the people of Hawaii. Please oppose this bill!

Ellen Benton

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:07:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
traves lerma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:17:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garett Uyesugi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I firmly believe that we already have in place enough taxation.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:17:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ariel zaminasli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:17:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 3:04:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Takaaze	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO MORE TAXES, start spending our tax revenue correctly. Treat our money that we give you in the form of Taxes with respect. The answer is a smaller more efficient government, STOP INCREASING TAXES. There is literally not a single item that we do not get taxed on, enough is enough.

mahalo.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 3:39:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teikiheekua Taupu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 4:41:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jake J. Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are taxed way too much already!

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:10:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Dietrich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:26:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:40:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi C. Liu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Shame on the people that promote this bill. Working people suffer high enough taxes as it is.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 4:49:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 6:19:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 6:45:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Wells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:20:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Stevenson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose sb887. I do not support the 70 percent increase that is suggested. The increase will make it too expensive to afford the healthier choice I have made as an adult to quit smoking and start vaping. Although I am for taxing the Hawaii vape industry but a 70 percent increase is crazy. As an adult I chose to vape and quit traditional cigarettes. I saw what smoking did to my dad. It shortened his life and ultimately took it. Though vaping is the healthier alternative , you are not able to get second hand vaping effects , you arent getting the carbon monoxide poisoning that would get from cigarettes. I used to smoke for over a number of years. Once I started to vape I noticed my taste buds came back. I could breath easier. I had more energy. More and more accredited studies are done on vaping and even former FDA chairman Scott Gotlieb himself endorsed vaping was a better health alternative. Vaping was born with the end goal of helping smokers quit and live longer. Will you KILL an industry that undeniably saves lives. Is the state so determined to KILL an industry that has such a positive impact in their citizens lives. Why , why handcuff an industry that has so much positivity. Because the common citizen doesnt understand and lives with their heads down like cows being lead to slaughter. The common citizen doesnt even want to be educated on its healthier choices. I oppose sb887 and its 70 percent increase that will TAKE AWAY my RIGHT as an adult to choose a better lifestyle. Lets just keep the problems and never adress the things that help our people live longer. The longer your citizens live the longer they have to vote you into office. Lets not adress that.

You all have a beautiful day.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:41:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Heaukulani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:58:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
austin keliinoi-westbrook	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Austin Keliinoi-Westbrook, I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB887. Increasing the tax will also increase the difficulty towards a productive business. Passing this bill will make it hard not only for adults that smoke cigarettes and tobacco, but it will also make it hard for businesses selling E-cigarette products. I'm a vaper myself, and as a customer the tax alone will make purchasing difficult. With that being said I can imagine shop owners worrying if adults will even purchase due to tax incline. We are supposed to be helping each other not making things harder. Think about businesses trying to make a living. Just a thought. Mahalo... I OPPOSE SB887...

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:18:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

my name is Puna Hayashida and I am highly oppsoing to bill sb887. It is rediculous that the taxes we pay on everything in the state of Hawaii is ridiculous as is it and now if this bill passes the taxes will be even higher. It's hard as it is already just getting by with day to day expenses. With these additional taxes I just wonder what else this state will tax. As a current vape shop employee of hilyfevaporz I see the type of revenue just our vape shop alone brings in. With this 70% tax on vape products I can only imagine how much revenue will be lost due to the simple fact that many of our locals here work enough to just keep a roof over their heads and food on the table for their families. It would be so unfair to add on tax to such a industry which brings in good revenue for the state as is. As employed local here in the state of Hawaii it would be very sad to see a bill of this multitude get put into affect. It would be unfair to see individuals who have such great pull in the state take advantage of us hard working local people. With so many taxes already in place you guys wonder why other people who are trying to get by sell illegal narcotics it's becuase the many things that get imported are highly taxed and or over priced. Please reconsider what kind of real impact this bill may cause and or take away from individuals livelihoods. Mahalo Nui loa for your time

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:11:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I smoked for 18 years and quit using sour worms flavored vape liquid

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:41:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DANIEL DRAPESA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My new is Daniel Drapesa Sr.

My wife smoked cigarettes for more than fifteen years. She would constantly get sick and 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. If SB887 was to pass into law, the cost vaping would dramatically increase. This could effect retailers and their employees. It would result in a lot of Hawaii's people losing their jobs. My wife's progress would not be possible and she would most likely got back to traditional cigarettes.

You classified Eliquid as a tobacco product. There is NO tobacco in e-liquid. It's true that there is Nicotine, but if Nicotine is what makes it as a tobacco product then the Nicotine Patch, Gum, and Lozenges should also be classified as tobacco products, they are not. Also, more than a quarter of all e-liquid sold is nicotine free or 0mg. A ENDS device by itself is not a nicotine product. It would be imposing this bill on ENDS would be the same as taxing or banning a lighter or matches.

Aside from my wife's story, I myself work at brick and mortar Vape shop. My coworkers and I would have our careers threatened by this bill passing and becoming law. That would take away our livelihood and the means that we provide for our families. On a daily basis at work I meet adults who are of age who tell me how vaping has helped them quit and stay off smoking for a month, a year, five years or more. They tell me that vaping was the only way that truly worked for them. Studies show its 95% less harmful. Studies also show vaping gives smokers twice the likelihood of quitting over other methods (I.e. patches, gum, etc.) VAPING IS NOT SMOKING!! Alot of your supporting details bundle the two together and they are not the same thing. A more effective path you could pursue would be stricter punishments for retailers that sell to underage and penalties for parents of kids caught vaping or with paraphernalia. Parents need to be accountable for their children. Often times they are the ones buying it for the kids. I have see families come into vape shops and parents turn to their High school aged child and ask "which one did you want?"

In closing I highly oppose SB887, Aloha!

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:44:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonah K Manuel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Jonah Manuel,I oppose this bill because we pay enough taxes on everything already.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:23:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randi Derego	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Board, I feel like we already are paying top dollar on unfair taxes. How much more taxes do we have to pay

SB-887-SD-2

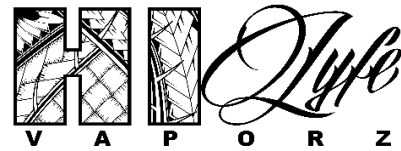
Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:05:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I smoked for 20 years and quit using sour worms flavored vape liquid




85-993 Farrington Hwy
Suite 206
Waianae, Hi 96792
808-200-4798
info@hilyfevaporz.com

3/13/2019

Dear Chair and Members,

Aloha,


My name is Jostin and I Strongly oppose the Senate Bill 887 (SB 887). As a small business owner and active member in the Vape community, I have no doubt that a bill of this magnitude will affect thousands of people in the state of Hawaii that have nothing short of a positive impact in their lives, health, and especially, the purpose of quitting combustible cigarettes. We DO NOT support teenage vaping; WE DO NOT SELL OR MARKET TO ANYONE UNDER THE LEGAL AGE OF AN ADULT PRODUCT; WE COMPLY WITH ALL THE CURRENT STATE AND U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S (FDA) LAWS AND REGULATIONS. Being a small business owner in Hawaii, my business Hi Lyfe Vaporz, LLC has acquired over 10 active employees. A bill like this will impact our business, as well as, many across the state in a negative manner such as: causing people to lose their jobs and homes, they would be unable to provide for their families, and many may end up going back to combustible cigarettes, which has been proven to be a known negative health factor throughout the world. The FDA has implemented many stringent rules and regulations which makes it very difficult for all the Vape industry's manufactures, and retailers to comply with, as well as stay up to date.



One of the problems with the youth vaping epidemic isn't Flavors or taxes, the issue is with enforcement to retailers of age restriction. By completely banning anything in this industry that has helped many adults, it will have a negative impact. Taxes alone from the industry generates a good amount of funding to our state. It's important to understand taking away vaping may greatly impact revenue to the state for health and research, ect.

Bill's like this simply goes against the positive impact vaping has made for all legal adults, who transitioned to a better alternative than combustible cigarettes. I humbly ask to think about this impact before passing such a bill. Myself, my family, as well as our employees, and customers will be greatly affected in a negative way. I am a former smoker of 20 years and I oppose SB 887 for the simple fact that this bill is unfair as the being the root cause of the teenage vaping epidemic. That 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 while vaping should be a right, as a law-abiding citizen that shouldn't be taken away from legal adults. As an adult we should have a choice to vape our preference of flavor!! The vaping epidemic in Hawaii and the USA of teenagers are because of certain devices like "Juil" and similar ones like it being easily accessible through gas stations, convenience stores, etc. 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. The vape shops, manufactures, and companies that have followed the rules will be getting punished for the fact that the reasons behind the epidemic isn't being directed toward the real issue, which is age enforcement.

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 places other than vape shops do not 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 charging our industry unfair taxes and high percentages, this will not help the teenage vape epidemic, it will hurt businesses and adults who found a better alternative from combustible cigarettes. Also vaping has made a huge impact by lessening the amount of Traditional tobacco cigarette use state and nationwide.



If we are to be taxed please have reasonable rates, percentages and tax products that actually have "TOBACCO DERIVED NICOTINE". If not this bill will greatly urge citizens to go back to combustible cigarettes which is definitely more toxic due to the fact that 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. Also please take a look at Senator Richard Burr in his explanation of what his thought are on this matter here is the link.

https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4777366/senator-burr-floor-speech-fda-ban-menthol-cigarettes&fbclid=IwAR2tx2xiS590W_qe6WHKH6gq-zoelg8tkh57g3f9V61aOjxwX3HfPRq68yM

Here is a statement by Senator Burr

https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4777366/senator-burr-floor-speech-fda-ban-menthol-cigarettes&fbclid=IwAR2z1rLX_JvapjK2KmZUNLe0eW_D_G1AbPiLxgldNRnA--RQOfRFg61DLu8

Mahalo for your time and consideration Jostin Iriarte jostin@hilyfevaporz.com

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:04:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lani Hernandez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm very opposed to this tax increase.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:27:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Anton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:00:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Lower the damn tax don't raise it.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:47:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dustin Andrews	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

You're screwing working guys over with even more taxes! WTF! :(

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:06:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Oswald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposed to this strongly.

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 2:16:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucien Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members

An increase in the tobacco tax in SB887 could provide research funds to UHCC to determine what the causes, which are currently unknown, for Hawaii having the highest rate of liver/bile duct cancer in all 50 states. Every year 184 new cases of this cancer which is almost always terminal are diagnosed according to data from UHCC. This rate is about 33% above the national norm. This need for this cancer research is in HB654 which is now being considered in the Senate.

SB887 SD2 could be amended to earmark those funds specifically for this UHCC research. If this is done it is possible that once the causes are determined and preventative/education programs are in place 60 lives could be saved each year.

Mahalo

Lucien Wong

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 2:30:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nani Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I apologize for not being able to attend in person. I was trapped by the winter storm in Denver. I support SB 887 SD 2 and ask the committee to consider amending the measure to set aside a portion of the new revenues for the UH Cancer Center to perform research on the causes and pervasiveness of bile duct, or cholangiocarcinoma, cancer in Hawai`i. Your committee, and the House Finance Committee, previously approved HB 654 to provide funding for this research. My father recently passed from this cancer and seven people in my life have been affected by or passed away due to this cancer. HB 654 has not been scheduled in the Senate and I ask your committee to protect this issue and continue the conversation through an amendment to SB 887 SD 2. Thank you.

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:37:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Ishida	ABC Stores	Oppose	No

Comments:

ABC Stores oppose SB 887 SD2 Relating to Tobacco Taxes. This measure increases the cigarette and tobacco tax on cigarettes and little cigars by five cents beginning July 1, 2020 and allocates excise tax revenue generated at the increased rate to specified health improvement purposes beginning July 1, 2020.

Raising the tobacco tax and permit fee by 30% will hurt locally owned businesses. More people will begin to purchase tobacco products on the black market or on line or at military retail outlets tax free. Tobacco products will be more sought after by organized retail crime. We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:03:13 PM
Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Wheeling	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

The bill is an insulting money grab from the pockets of working people. The committee should take SB887 outside and BURN IT!

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:54:55 PM
Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monika Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

This tax is too high. Sick of getting ripped off by a legislature that is the enemy of voters who like to smoke. Go ahead and prove me wrong.

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:23:30 PM
Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dallas Nelson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:57:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Cooper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:55:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Nettles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose all of this bill.

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:15:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NOT COOL!

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:38:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Bainum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:07:11 PM
Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David McCann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-887-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:00:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB887
RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

I am writing to express my strong support for SB887, which if passed, would increase the taxes on each cigarette or little cigar to 21 cents.

Tobacco use is the nation's most preventable cause of death, yet nearly half a million Americans will die from smoking-related diseases this year. Most tobacco users say they want to quit and about half try to quit each year, but only less than 10 percent succeed without help.

Research has shown that increasing the tax on tobacco products provides a proven effective incentive to help adults quit and prevent kids from ever starting the deadly habit. I urge you to support SB887.

This tax will also help to support community health centers throughout our state and help to fund a special account of the state general fund for expenditure to repay medical school loans of graduates of the John A. Burns school of medicine, who practice in primary care in the medically underserved population areas of this State, as determined by the John A. Burns school of medicine.

Cameron Woods

Print Name

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

City

Zip Code

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Ericome Crispe

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

City

Zip Code

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Kira Nelson

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

City

Zip Code

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Andrey McDaniel
Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
City Zip Code

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RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

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Annam Manicar

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

City

Zip Code

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB887
RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

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Summer Yi

Print Name

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

City

Zip Code

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RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

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Anna Davide

Print Name

Waikiki, Hawaii 96815

City

Zip Code

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MELANIE AKIN

Print Name

MILILANI

, Hawaii

96789

City

Zip Code

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RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

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Joshlyn Rodrigues

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

City

Zip Code

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Jaimee Kato

Print Name

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

City

Zip Code

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Brandy Hitchcock

Print Name

Waikiki, Hawaii 96815

City

Zip Code

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Marc Rolton

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

City

Zip Code

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Christine Ly

Print Name

Kalihi

, Hawaii

96817

City

Zip Code

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Monica Franco

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

City

Zip Code

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Sharde Bobiles

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

City

Zip Code

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Cielo Subia

Print Name

Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

City

Zip Code

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Kionna Buchanan

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

City

Zip Code

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Rojelle Bohol

Print Name

Kaimuki

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

City

Zip Code

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Ashley Nelson
Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
City Zip Code

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Thomas C. Mills

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96184.

City

Zip Code

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Sherimae Murro

Print Name

Honolulu

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96819

City

Zip Code

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Camille Gurion

Print Name

Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

City

Zip Code

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Hanako Ishii

Print Name

HONOLULU, Hawaii 96825

City

Zip Code

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Dillon Mahoakeka

Print Name

Waialua, Hawaii 96791

City

Zip Code

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Jausalafia L. Uigaliki

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

City

Zip Code

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Nicole Graham

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

City

Zip Code

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB887
RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES**

I am writing to express my strong support for SB887, which if passed, would increase the taxes on each cigarette or little cigar to 21 cents.

Tobacco use is the nation's most preventable cause of death, yet nearly half a million Americans will die from smoking-related diseases this year. Most tobacco users say they want to quit and about half try to quit each year, but only less than 10 percent succeed without help.

Research has shown that increasing the tax on tobacco products provides a proven effective incentive to help adults quit and prevent kids from ever starting the deadly habit. I urge you to support SB887.

This tax will also help to support community health centers throughout our state and help to fund a special account of the state general fund for expenditure to repay medical school loans of graduates of the John A. Burns school of medicine, who practice in primary care in the medically underserved population areas of this State, as determined by the John A. Burns school of medicine.

Kainoa Miyamoto

Print Name

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

City

Zip Code

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Carly Nakano
Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
City Zip Code

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Parker Hymer-Costa

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

City

Zip Code

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Ajani Bryant Gysi

Print Name

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

City

Zip Code