

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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to H.B. 1296, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
RELATING TO STATE FUNDS**

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

Hearing Date: 4/6/2021

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure impacts the priorities of the Department of Health (DOH)
2 identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request and Legislative Package.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly opposes this measure with comments.

4 House Bill 1296, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 (H.B. 1296, H.D. 1, S.D. 1) would
5 dismantle the comprehensive tobacco prevention and quit smoking services for youth and adults
6 by repealing the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund) and the oversight role
7 of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board (Advisory Board). The money in the
8 Trust Fund is from tobacco company profits, and exclusively used for tobacco prevention and
9 control.

10 The Legislature crafted Act 304, S.B. 1034, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1999, so
11 Hawaii would have a long-term stable source of funding for tobacco prevention services for
12 adults, youth, and children. From 2000 to 2020, Hawaii received almost one billion dollars from
13 tobacco company payments, and the Trust Fund received \$109.7 million, and \$105.2 million was
14 spent on tobacco prevention programs. Through investments and carefully managed
15 expenditures, instead of \$4.5 million remaining, there is still \$59 million that continues to earn
16 interest for tobacco prevention programs. H.B. 1296, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 would liquidate the Trust
17 Fund that is earning revenue that helps tobacco users quit and youth from ever starting.

1 The origin of these funds is from the master settlement agreement (MSA) signed in 1998
2 between forty-six states, territories, and four of the largest cigarette manufacturers.¹ Act 304
3 passed in 1999 established the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund (TSSF) to receive the annual
4 payments resulting from the class action lawsuit, and is codified in [Chapter 328L, Hawaii](#)
5 [Revised Statutes](#) (HRS).² The DOH receives and distributes the TSSF, and the changes to the
6 distribution since fiscal year (FY) 2000 are provided on table 1.

7 Table 1. TSSF Distribution Portions, FY2000 through FY2020, [Sec. 328L-2\(b\), HRS](#)

Fiscal Years	Rainy Day	DOH	DHS SCHIP	Trust Fund	UH JABSOM	General Fund
FY2000-FY2002	40.0%	25.0%	10.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
FY2003-FY2009	24.5%	25.0%	10.0%	12.5%	28.0%	0.0%
FY2010-FY2011	15.0%	15.0%	10.0%	6.5%	28.0%	25.5%
FY2012	0.0%	15.0%	10.0%	0.0%	28.0%	47.0%
FY2013	0.0%	15.0%	10.0%	0.0%	28.0%	47.0%
FY2014	15.0%	15.0%	10.0%	6.5%	27.0%	26.5%
FY2015	15.0%	15.0%	10.0%	6.5%	26.0%	27.5%
FY2016-FY2020	15.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	26.0%	46.5%

8 Notes: Rainy Day: also known as the Emergency & Budget Reserve Fund (EBRF)
9 DOH: Department of Health for health promotion and disease prevention programs, ended FY16
10 DHS SCHIP: Department of Human Services State Children’s Health Insurance Program, ended FY16³
11 Trust Fund: Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund established in the Hawaii Community Foundation
12 UH JABSOM: University revenue-undertakings fund for Kakaako medical school facility
13 TSSF: Receives \$350,000 before portions to other funds, Sec. 328L-2(a), HRS

14 In FY2020, the total MSA payment received into the TSSF was \$35,309,044, and
15 \$350,000 was first distributed to the AG for the TSSF. The 5% central service and 1.21%
16 administrative assessments were applied and \$2,149,806 went to the general fund. Table 2
17 illustrates the distribution of the net amounts. Since the 2018 MSA arbitrated settlement reduced
18 the annual payments to Hawaii till calendar year 2022, Act 12, SLH 2018, requires
19 unencumbered TSSF be used to supplant any losses to the UH JABSOM and Trust Fund portions

¹ Schlinger, T. The MSA – 20 Years Later. NAAG Center for Tobacco and Public Health. Retrieved 2-26-2021.
<https://www.naag.org/tobacco-and-e-cigarettes/attorney-general-journal/tobacco-master-settlement-agreement-msa-20-years-later/>

² Act 304, HSL 1999: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session1999/acts/Act304_sb1034.htm

³ DOH, DHS portion ends, Act 118, HSL 2015. https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/SB101_CD1_.PDF

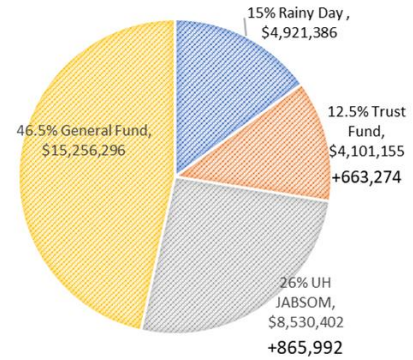
1 (\$865,992 and \$663,274 respectively for FY2020).

2 The Trust Fund is established as a separate fund
3 in the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF), a non-
4 profit entity with a board of governors, as described in
5 [Sec. 328L-5, HRS](#). The DOH has a contract with the
6 HCF to invest and manage the Trust Fund, for tobacco
7 prevention and control efforts. The HCF provides
8 reports on a quarterly basis on the investment
9 performance of the Trust Fund, conducts and submits an annual third-party auditor’s report,
10 maintains an online portal where evaluation reports are submitted, and communicates weekly on
11 the progress of the program of work. Grant making and services are competitively selected
12 through requests for proposals with a rigorous review process. Currently, there are 16
13 community cessation and 12 youth e-cigarette prevention grantees, and contracts that support the
14 Hawaii Tobacco Quitline and evaluations. Since 2009, the community-based cessation programs
15 and the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline enrolled over 54,000 tobacco users and remain on target
16 reaching people experiencing greater health disparities.

17 The Advisory Board described in [Sec. 328L-6, HRS](#), advises the HCF on the
18 administration of the Trust Fund, and is required in collaboration with the DOH to develop a
19 state strategic plan for tobacco prevention and control that guides the use of the Trust Fund. The
20 Advisory Board includes members nominated by the Senate President and House Speaker and
21 appointed by the Governor, departmental designees, and includes people with demonstrated
22 interest and expertise, and members representing populations at risk for tobacco use. The
23 meetings are publicly held and the HCF provides presentations on the progress of the strategic
24 areas of work, evaluation findings, and updates and recommendations to the budget.

25 When Hawaii settled the lawsuit against tobacco companies with other states and
26 territories, one important reason was to achieve for their citizens, “. . . significant funding for the

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2020 Distribution



1 advancement of public health.”⁴ The MSA included provisions to protect youth from
2 combustible cigarettes, and many states including Hawaii began funding tobacco prevention
3 programs. Unlike many states, Hawaii policy makers since 2000 have maintained the public
4 health objective to use the MSA portion for the Trust Fund to help residents quit smoking and to
5 prevent youth from starting. These programs and the individuals dedicated to protecting youth
6 and help people quit smoking are saving lives, improving health outcomes, and have over the
7 years saved the state \$1 billion dollars in total health care costs.⁵

8 The Trust Fund is a funding source that saves the state money, has built in accountability,
9 and unlike general funds, earns interests and managed well, will continue to provide sustainable
10 funding for tobacco prevention services for the public good. If the metaphor of a large fruitful
11 tree describes the Trust Fund, the invested principal supports the programs in its branches. The
12 Hawaii Tobacco Quitline and community cessation grantees are trusted sources of help. The tree
13 can and has sustained these programs when carefully managed even when the annual TSSF
14 portions were cut or insufficient. The DOH in contrast has lost infrastructure and program
15 capacity over the last ten years. The Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division
16 (CDPHPD) that has the responsibility for tobacco prevention has gone from a state funded
17 budget of \$14,066,714 in FY2009 to \$6,882,284 in FY2021. Currently, the CDPHPD HTH590
18 general fund budget in the H.B. 200 H.D. 1 is reduced by 40% to \$4,126,008 by deleting five
19 positions, including all the remaining budgeting, fiscal and human resources positions, deleting
20 operational budgets for public education, evaluation and surveillance, most of the operational
21 budget for the Primary Prevention Branch, and deleting personnel funding for the entire Chronic
22 Disease Management Branch which are the branch chief, secretary and the Bilingual Health Aide
23 Services. The historic trends in diminishing state commitment to fund chronic disease
24 prevention is daunting for building trust with community-based organizations and the public for
25 services. The Department is concerned that once the Trust Fund is felled the program will be

⁴ National Association of Attorneys General, The Master Settlement Agreement. Retrieved 2-12-2021:
<https://1li23g1as25g1r8so11ozniw-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MSA.pdf>

⁵ Holmes JR, Ching LK, Cheng D, Johnson L, Yap L, Starr RR and Irvin L. 2018. [Tobacco Landscape. Honolulu: Hawaii State Department of Health](#), Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division.

1 dismantled and state commitment to provide comprehensive and quality services will vacillate.
2 The effect of the proposed measure would end the free services through the Hawaii Tobacco
3 Quitline for youth, pregnant women and adults who smoke and vape. County level cessation,
4 youth e-cigarette prevention, community and youth education services provided through non-
5 profit organizations on every island would also cease.

6 Tobacco use has been linked to diseases in nearly every organ, and nicotine is one of the
7 most addictive substances, and year over year, many keiki and adults in Hawaii are enticed to
8 start and keep using tobacco. Despite the declines in the use of combustible cigarette use, each
9 year 1,400 adults in Hawaii will die prematurely, and 1,000 keiki will lose at least one parent
10 from smoking-caused death.^{6,7} Hawaii annually spends \$526 million in direct annual health care
11 expenditures and \$387.3 million in worker productivity is lost due to smoking.⁸ Meanwhile the
12 tobacco industry continues to spend billions of dollars in advertising, \$9.06 billion in 2018 alone,
13 and our keiki continue to be enticed and become addicted.⁹ The tobacco companies settled with
14 states in 1998 because it was good for their business and they have continued to innovate and
15 entice new smokers and vapers. Where the traditional advertising of cigarettes was visible to
16 parents, keiki now receive e-cigarettes marketing directly to their smart phones from online
17 youth social influencers on social and digital media platforms.^{10,11}

⁶ Lortet-Tieulent J, Goding Sauer A, Siegel RL, et al. State-Level Cancer Mortality Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in the United States. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2016;176(12):1792–1798. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2016.6530.

⁷ Leistikow BN, Martin DC, Milano CE. Estimates of smoking-attributable deaths at ages 15-54, motherless or fatherless youths, and resulting Social Security costs in the United States in 1994. *Prev Med.* 2000 May;30(5):353-60. doi: 10.1006/pmed.2000.0657. PMID: 10845743.

⁸ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, “The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii.” January 19, 2021.

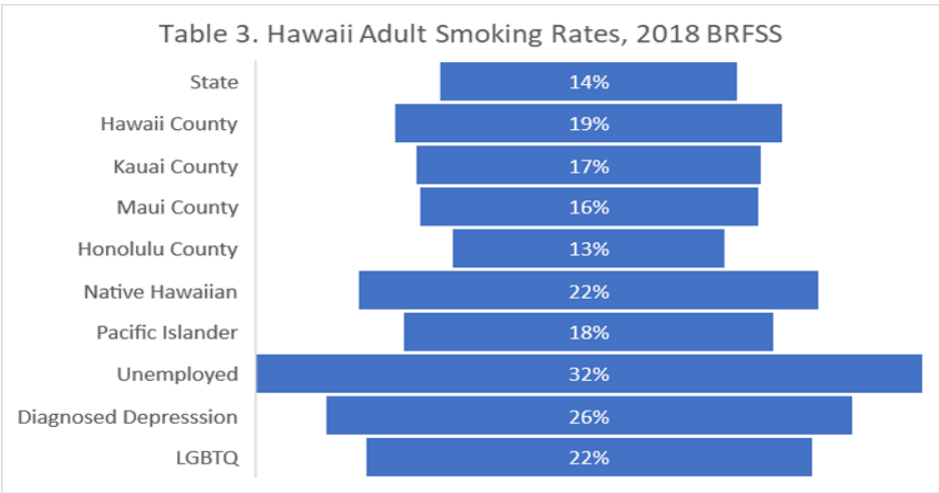
⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tobacco Industry Marketing. Retrieved 2-13-21:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/marketing/index.htm

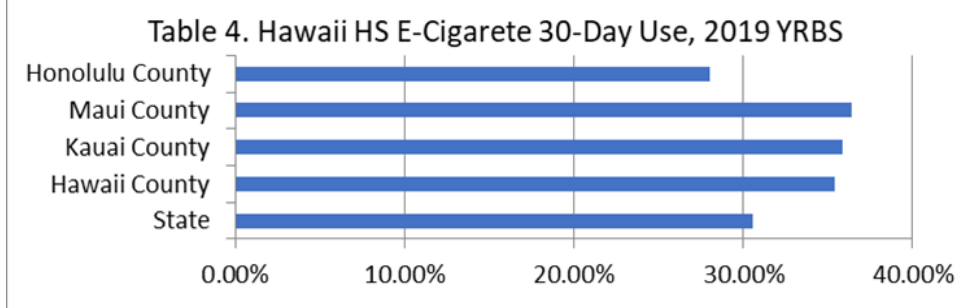
¹⁰ O'Brien EK, Hoffman L, Navarro MA, Ganz O. Social media use by leading US e-cigarette, cigarette, smokeless tobacco, cigar and hookah brands. *Tob Control.* 2020 Dec;29(e1):e87-e97. doi: 10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2019-055406. Epub 2020 Mar 26. PMID: 32217772.

¹¹ FDA in Brief, March 17, 2021: [FDA In Brief: FDA Requires Four E-Cigarette Brands to Provide Critical Information on Social Media Practices](#). Accessed on March 19, 2021.

1 The Trust Fund
 2 program meets the evolving
 3 challenges, is based on
 4 public health data, national
 5 standards and guidelines,
 6 focusing especially on
 7 communities impacted by
 8 tobacco marketing and use.
 9 Adult tobacco use rates and



10 needs vary, see table 3.¹² The 2019 youth high school (HS) e-cigarette use rates were higher by
 11 neighbor island counties, see table 4, and rates for students who identify as Native Hawaiian,
 12 Pacific Islander, Filipino, and Other, rose through 2015, 2017, and 2019.¹³ The program of work



considers the
 geography and
 challenges, and
 opportunities between
 rural and urban
 communities, and

19 training and networking is provided to share expertise and resources.

20 The repeal of Chapter 328L-5, and amending 328L-6, HRS would break the nexus
 21 between the annual MSA payments and the people of Hawaii, whose health continue to be
 22 impacted by tobacco. The action to transfer the Trust Fund to the general funds would end the
 23 work not finished, to prevent youth from becoming addicted to nicotine, and to help youth,
 24 pregnant women, and adults to quit. Native Hawaiians, Filipino, and Pacific Islanders have been
 25 disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, death, and life

¹² Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on 2-23-2021.
¹³ Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, 2015-2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. ': Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>.

1 disruptions during the pandemic – and these are also the communities the Trust Fund serves.
2 The proposal to dismantle the Trust Fund comes during a youth vaping epidemic, and when
3 Hawaii has entered the lawsuit against JUUL labs for marketing and addicting keiki in Hawaii
4 with fruit and candy flavored e-cigarettes. This is the time for Hawaii demonstrate fidelity to the
5 original intent of Act 304 in 1999 that established the Trust Fund for the comprehensive tobacco
6 prevention and control program in Hawaii.

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

8 **Offered Amendments:** None

Date: April 1, 2021

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Members of the University of Hawai'i Student Health Advisory Council

Re: Strong Opposition for HB1296, Relating to State Funds

Hearing: Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 9:30 am at Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION of HB1296, which repeals the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. For over twenty years, Hawai'i's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced tobacco use rates in our state, which has saved both lives and extensive health care costs. Since its inception, Hawai'i has achieved significant declines in smoking rates amongst youth and young adults as a result of this trust fund.

Over the years, the Student Health Advisory Council has aligned themselves with the mission of the Trust Fund and played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of health policies and tobacco education on the UH System campuses. We remain deeply committed to the mission of reducing the use of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, among adolescents and young adults.

We, therefore, urge you to oppose this measure. For the sake of our general public health, Hawai'i should not jeopardize decades of progress in tobacco prevention and control efforts at a time when our youth need this education and support the most.

Mahalo,

Student Health Advisory Council

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

As a Tobacco Treatment Specialist at Lanai Community Health Center, I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawaii.

To balance tobacco advertising, the Hawaii legislature allocated a portion of the state's settlement dollars to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The Fund establishes and funds community tobacco prevention and control programs, and a State Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their nicotine addiction, all to protect the health of our community and reduce future healthcare costs.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not tax payers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cori Takesue', written in a cursive style.

Cori Takesue, Psy.D., CTTS
Director of Behavioral Health, Licensed Psychologist
Lanai Community Health Center



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

by
Kalbert K. Young
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1296 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is providing comments regarding House Bill (HB) 1296 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1, Relating to State Funds. This bill repeals the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, appropriates general funds to the Department of Health for tobacco prevention and control, and specifies that Hawai'i Tobacco Settlement Special Fund moneys shall only be deposited into the University Revenue-Undertakings Fund until July 1, 2033.

The implications of this bill are impactful on how the UH will be able to rely on these special fund revenues. The tobacco settlement revenues received by UH are specifically appropriated to the purpose of paying debt service on bonds issued for construction of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) facility in Kaka'ako.

The outstanding bonds were sold in 2006 and the tobacco settlement revenues were a primary revenue pledge to bond buyers. Currently, there remains more than \$117.22 million in bonds outstanding and those bonds will mature prior to the July 1, 2033 sunset date in the bill. UH's annual debt service payments for these bonds are between \$9.4 million and \$10.04 million each year. The bonds have more than ten (10) years remaining until full maturity. Debt service over the remaining duration of the bonds total more than \$123.57 million. The par value of the outstanding bonds is approximately \$117.22 million. Changes to how the Hawai'i Tobacco Settlement Special Fund moneys are allocated and distributed – especially, for that portion to the UH – should be at least mindful of the impact on promised debt obligations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HB1296 HD1 Tobacco Special Fund

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

- Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
- Tuesday, Apr 6, 2021: 9:30: Videoconference

HSAC Opposes HB1296 HD1 SD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of over 30 substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

It will be hurtful to remove funding for Tobacco Cessation.

1. Will unravel enforcement and compliance elements required by the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and in turn jeopardize the millions of dollars received by the State pursuant to the MSA.
2. Would end the free services through the Hawaii 8 Tobacco Quitline for youth, pregnant women and adults who smoke and vape.
3. Would end the county level cessation and youth prevention services provided through non-profit organizations available without charge on every island.
4. Eliminate the provision which provides for appropriation of 26% of tobacco settlement revenues to the university revenue undertakings fund. The tobacco settlement revenues are specifically appropriated to the purpose of paying debt service on bonds issued for construction of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) facility in Kaka'ako.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



I Ola Lāhui
Behavioral Health Services

1441 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 1802 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814 ∞ www.iolalahui.org ∞ phone (808) 525-6255 ∞ fax (808) 525-6256

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

I Ola Lahui is in **strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1**, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

I Ola Lahui (IOL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in operation since 2007. Our mission is to provide culturally-minded evidence-based behavioral health services responsive to needs of medically underserved, Native Hawaiian, and rural communities. A significant part of our work has been the identification and treatment of tobacco use with and emphasis on medically underserved clients (including clients with low socio-economic status who struggle with mental illness and substance use disorders and other priority populations including LGBTQ and pregnant women). We also provide vaping prevention and treatment to youth.

All of the populations we serve are of the most vulnerable in our islands and we rely on the tobacco trust in order to serve them. Our tobacco cessation and vaping programs are funded by the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Fund and without these monies, we would not be able to offer these lifesaving programs to our Moloka'i residents.

Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are important to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo,

Allison Seales

Allison Seales, Ph.D.
Director of Training
I Ola Lahui

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

As a concerned member of the Hawai'i community, I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawaii.

To balance tobacco advertising, the Hawaii legislature allocated a portion of the state's settlement dollars to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The Fund establishes and funds community tobacco prevention and control programs, and a State Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their nicotine addiction, all to protect the health of our community and reduce future healthcare costs.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not tax payers.

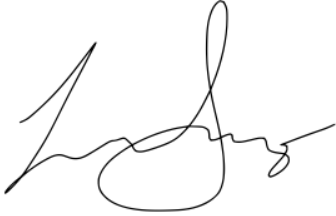
The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future

at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo,

Lauren Simpson-Gomez 04/01/2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Simpson-Gomez', written in a cursive style.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 6:48:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE [HB1296 HD1 SD1](#)

www.WeAreOne.cc

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 8:54:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Lui	Testifying for American Heart Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing on behalf of the American Heart Association as their Board President to oppose Bill HB1296. The tobacco industry spends \$26.1 million in marketing in Hawai'i annually, but the [state spends only \\$7.9 million on tobacco prevention and control](#), 58% of the total CDC recommended amount. The program is currently managed through a contract by a team at Hawaii Community Foundation, who invest the annual Tobacco Settlement payments allocated to it, and oversee grant applications, grantee reporting, and program evaluations to insure grant effectiveness. No state department is staffed or equipped to replicate those services. It will cost the state more money to try and replicate the current program through general funds, and it will almost certainly result in less effective programs.

Since 2000, [Hawai'i has saved over \\$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs](#) through significant reductions in smoking among youth, adults, and pregnant women. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai'i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs. There is still work to be done: Hawai'i is in the midst of a youth vaping epidemic, with [one in three high school students and one in five middle school students report "current use" of e-cigarettes](#). In addition, COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs, making tobacco use especially concerning. Teens and young adults that use e-cigarettes had a [five to seven times greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19](#) than those that did not use e-cigarettes.

We understand the dire fiscal situation the state is in, however tobacco prevention and control funding is critical to saving lives and healthcare costs. Please oppose this bill to help ensure the funding that is needed for the health of our community and our keiki.
Mahalo

- Michael Lui, MD

AHA Board President



Healthy Eating Active Living
Community Coalition
of Kauai County

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Kilauea, HI 96754
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brody1@hawaii.rr.com
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Chair

Lee Steinmetz
*Transportation Planner County of
Kauai*

Vice Chair

Marla Silva, Director HHM
Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i

Steering Committee Members

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH, FAAP
Kauai District Health Officer

Neil J. Clendeninn MD, PhD
*Chair, Lihue Tomorrow
Committee of LBA
(Lihue Business Association)*

Howard Gregg
Community Member

Michelle Jenkins, MPH
*Kauai District Health & Physical
Education
Resource Teacher*

Michelle Martinez, MPH
Worksite Wellness Evaluator

Tommy A. Noyes
Kauai Path

Valerie Saki
Hawaii Public Health Institute

Marie Williams, MCRP, AICP
County of Kauai Planning Dept.

Ex-Officio

Bev Brody, PT
Coalition Director

April 2, 2021

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Committee Members

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Get Fit Kauai, established in 1994, is the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Community Coalition of Kauai County. Currently this dynamic association has over 1,000 members that represent multiple sectors and disciplines; state and county government, county council, community health centers, hospitals, health department, local businesses, schools, Boys and Girls Club, P.A.T.C.H. and Kauai Planning and Alliance.

Get Fit Kauai is sensitive to the State's economic situation; however, we strongly oppose HB1296. It is vital that our state continue to fund tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the public health and economic future of everyone in Hawaii.

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. Since its inception, the state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth. 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai'i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs.

Despite this progress, the toll of tobacco is substantial, and there is still work to be done. Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease, claiming 1,400 lives each year and creating \$526 million in annual healthcare costs in Hawai'i. E-cigarette use among youth has reached epidemic levels and erased decades of progress. Continued investment in tobacco prevention and control is needed to reverse this alarming trend and protect public health.

Please make a WISE, EDUCATED decision and vote AGAINST HB 1296.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit testimony.

BBrody

Get Fit Kauai – Director
H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating Active Living)
Community Coalition of Kauai County
808-212-4765
www.getfitkauai.com



To: Senator Jarret Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: March 23, 2021 at 3:15 PM via Videoconference

Waimānalo Health Center is in **strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1** which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and transfers the balances to the general fund.

I am a Licensed Psychologist and Director of Behavioral Health employed by Waimānalo Health Center. Since 2019, WHC has received funding from the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund to help support tobacco cessation and prevention efforts for our patients and community. To date, since the beginning of our program, **we have enrolled 126 participants into our program.** Of the those participants, 97% are from five priority populations that the tobacco grant targets. These priority populations include: Low Socio Economic background, Native Hawaiian, Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health conditions, LGBTQ, and pregnant mothers. Research indicates that that these priority populations are disproportionately affected by tobacco use and its negative health, social, and economic consequences.

Tobacco use in Hawai'i continues to be a serious public health problem, where roughly 1,400 deaths each year are attributable to smoking. Estimates of annual smoking-caused monetary costs in Hawai'i include \$526 million in health care costs, \$387 million in lost productivity costs, and account for \$141 million of all Medicaid expenditures. For pregnant mothers, tobacco use has long-term consequences for the next generation. Smoking during pregnancy causes significantly higher rates of premature birth, low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The grant has allowed us to increase staffing to improve access and availability for tobacco treatment services. Now, when a patient comes in for medical or other health services and is identified as a smoker, WHC is able to provide same-day access to tobacco treatment. This allows patients to receive convenient and accessible care, leading to more patients getting the help that they need. WHC is also able to provide nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), e.g. nicotine patches, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenge, and Chantix, without cost to our patients.

Some insurances only provides 2-4 weeks of NRTs to a smoker. These medications play an important role in helping people quit, as it can double or triple the chances of becoming smoke-free.

As a tobacco treatment provider, I have been a witness to the life-changing stories of people quitting tobacco through the support of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. From the pregnant young mother who quit to increase the chance of having a healthy baby, to the Native Hawaiian grandmother who quit to live longer for her grandkids and the cancer survivor who quit to do what he could to make sure that the cancer remains in remission. These funds change lives for the better, which will impact future generations.

That is why it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not tax payers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose. And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296, HD1 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1296, HD1.

Mahalo,

Sid Hermosura, PsyD
Director of Behavioral Health
Waimānalo Health Center



**American
Heart
Association.**

American Heart Association testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1296, “Relating to State Funds”

Chairman of the Board

Glen Kaneshige

President

Michael Lui, MD

Board Members

Rick Bruno, MD, FACEP

Jackie De Luz

Brandt Farias

Jason Fujita

Mimi Harris

Zia Khan, MD

Brandon Kurisu

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Michael Rembis, FACHE

Andrew S. Rosen

Timothy Slottow

Jennifer Walker

Hawaii has made great strides in reducing tobacco use, but despite these advances, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in our state and challenges to tobacco control still exist. Hawaii’s current adult smoking prevalence (13%) remains higher than the national Healthy People 2030 target of 5%. Moreover, our low smoking rates (relative to other states) 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.

Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable disease and death and a major risk factor in the development of cardiovascular diseases and stroke, Hawaii’s leading causes of death and major disability. Of the approximately 480,000 Americans who die from smoking each year, 35% of those deaths are from cardiovascular disease.

In Hawaii alone, tobacco use claims 1,400 lives each year and creates \$526 million in annual health care costs (\$141.7 million of that is covered by the state Medicaid program). Hawaii residents' state & federal tax burden from tobacco-caused government expenditures is \$836 per household. Smoking-related losses in productivity total \$387.3 million per year.

The tobacco industry spends an estimated \$26.1 million each year marketing its products in Hawaii. Yet, Hawaii is allocating just \$7.9 million in state funds to tobacco prevention this year, 58% of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommended annual investment target for tobacco control in the state.

The AHA strongly believes that allocating funds from the state’s settlement agreement with the tobacco industry to community tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs through the Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund is not only pono, but helps to increase the desired impact of those settlement dollars by further reducing the use of tobacco products by our youth and the state’s most health vulnerable populations.

The State Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund is different from other special funds in that it is a legacy trust fund. As part of its settlement with the Big Tobacco companies for lying to Hawaii’s people about the health risks of using its products and to recover part of the damages for deaths and health maladies caused by years of that deceit the state gave up its right to pursue future damages from the industry. To balance that, the State allocated a portion of its settlement dollars to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund to reduce the future burden of those healthcare costs by establish and fund community tobacco prevention and control programs, and a State Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their addictions.

The Hawaii Department of Health reports that over the last decade,

Serving Hawaii since 1948

Our Mission:

“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.

State Tobacco Settlement Fund investments in cumulative tobacco control efforts resulted in approximately \$1 billion in healthcare cost savings to the state. Tobacco prevention and control programs have a strong return on investment - for every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawaii saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs.

It is important now as ever to continue that funding considering the record increase in use of electronic smoking devices by Hawaii's youth. According to recent Department of Health data, over half of Hawaii's youths have tried e-cigarettes, and over 30 percent are now regular users. Those levels mirror youth cigarette use at its peak in Hawaii. This is concerning because e-cigarettes not only often contain nicotine and serve as a gateway to traditional cigarette use, but nicotine can harm the developing adolescent brain. Nicotine addiction that occurs with e-cigarette use may lead to transition to use of combustible tobacco products. Addiction itself, whether to nicotine or other drugs, can drive undesirable behaviors. And using e-cigarettes increases your odds of having a stroke, heart attack and coronary heart disease. Hawaii must continue to work to ensure that future generations avoid the pitfalls of tobacco use, including this latest threat by electronic smoking devices, and the healthcare issues and costs associated with it.

Even if the legislature is committed to funding Hawaii tobacco prevention, control and cessation programs at the current rate of investment, it would cost the state more to do so through the general fund. Monies invested in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund are invested by the Hawaii Community Foundation which grows the state's investment, something that can't be done through the general fund.

And grants made from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund can be stretched to longer lengths than would be allowed under the legislature's two-year budget cycle. Those longer-term grants allow for programs to establish sustained quality efforts and attract better employees paid through the grant because of the guarantee of having more than two-years of employment.

The services provided through the state's contract with the Hawaii Community Foundation allow its team of professionals to manage the fund investments to insure the program may meet future needs, manage distribution of grants, provide training and technical assistance to grantees and evaluate the effectiveness of grants provided. Most of those services can't be replicated by any state department.

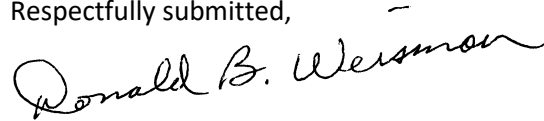
Finally, the Hawaii Department of Health has only one full-time employee dedicated to tobacco prevention, control and cessation. The Department does not have the infrastructure to replicate the current services provided by the Hawaii Community Foundation. And even if the legislature makes a commitment to replace the Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund dollars through use of the general fund allocations to the Department of Health, it would result in a disruption of services to the community. Grantees would need to wait for the legislature and governor to release the funds, and further delays would result

from the state's procurement process which often takes at least a year to release funds.

I conclude by stressing that the American Heart Association's advocacy for the appropriate use of Tobacco Settlement revenue is not based on its desire to have access to those funds. The AHA by policy does not accept state or local government funding. However, the AHA does see itself as an important watchdog for public health, and for ensuring that our state legislators fulfill their State Constitutional role (Article IX, Section 1) in protecting and promoting the public health.

We urge legislators to not dismantle the State's Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund, and to ensure continued funding for community efforts to reduce the toll of tobacco on our state's residents. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund is a legacy trust fund established to compensate for the hundreds of thousands of deaths and disabilities caused by the tobacco industry's deceit of Hawaii residents. Please don't make your legacy one that will be remembered for ending years of successful tobacco-control efforts in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director



Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:30 am
Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Laura Bonilla, RN
Executive Director – Pediatric and Women’s Services

Re: **Testimony in Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1
Relating to State Funds**

My name is Laura Bonilla, and I serve as the Executive Director of Pediatric and Women’s Services at Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children (Kapi’olani). Kapi’olani is an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health. Kapi’olani Medical Center is the state’s only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is also a tertiary care, medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai’i and the Pacific Region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric care, air transport, maternal-fetal medicine and high-risk perinatal care.

Kapi’olani writes in **opposition** to HB 1296, HD1, SD1 which repeals the tobacco prevention and control trust fund, and transfers the unencumbered balances to the general fund.

As the only pediatric hospital in the state, we are concerned that eliminating the Hawai’i tobacco prevention and control trust fund (Trust Fund) may lead to a reduction in quality health care and services provided to this vulnerable population of mothers, infants and children. We are committed to reducing the burden of smoking in the communities we serve, including pregnant mothers, infants and children we provide services to. We have seen the effect smoking and even secondhand smoke have on expectant mothers and their children. Smoking is the number one preventable cause of death. Quitting tobacco is one of the best things a patient can do to improve their health and decrease their risk of hospital readmissions.

The money we receive from the Trust Fund is used to provide cessation services to Hawai’i Pacific Health patients or any interested community members who want to quit

using tobacco. The evidence-based services provided by Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists include cessation counseling and nicotine replacement therapies (nicotine patches, gum, and/or lozenges) provided at no cost to the program participants. This funding also allows for easy access to cessation services by removing financial barriers that might otherwise keep tobacco users from seeking treatment, such as the cost of nicotine replacement therapies or copays for counseling. More than 80% of program participants come from a group that suffers disproportionately from tobacco, such as those that are low-income, homeless, uninsured, or have mental health or substance use issues. These populations also tend to be more heavily addicted and require intensive tobacco treatment. The impact of COVID19 made children and families more vulnerable to tobacco product use and has created more exposure to secondhand smoke from people being confined indoors.

In addition to providing intensive intervention, Tobacco Treatment Specialists funded by the Trust Fund are able to dedicate time to providing outreach and education to increase the number of patients and community members that make a quit attempt. We focus on reaching out to the parents and caretakers of pediatric patients which is important in the prevention of secondhand or thirdhand smoke exposure. If funding ceases, we will lose the opportunity to engage patients during critical times in their health care, such as during hospital admissions where they may be highly motivated to make a change to quit using tobacco. While tobacco use may be addressed by members of the health care team, many tobacco users require intensive ongoing treatment through the counseling provided by tobacco treatment specialists.

While we are sensitive to the challenging budget circumstances the State is confronting, we are compelled to write in opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1 which would adversely impact the programs supported by the Trust Fund and effectively diminish the success achieved in reducing the burden of smoking. Tobacco prevention and control funding is critical to saving lives and healthcare costs in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1296, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO STATE FUNDS.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA respectfully **OPPOSES** House Bill No. 1296, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO STATE FUNDS.

As received by your Committee, House Bill No. 1296, would:

- (1) Repeal the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund);
- (2) Specify that any unencumbered balances remaining in the Trust Fund lapse to the general fund on September 1, 2022; and
- (3) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same amount for fiscal year 2022-2023, for tobacco prevention and control purposes;

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

The Trust Fund provides critically important resources for a vast array of public health programs, including tobacco cessation and youth vaping prevention programs. Many of our FQHCs provide these kinds of programs through the support of the Trust Fund. Elimination of these dedicated funds will seriously undermine the sustainability of these programs.

Our members are especially concerned about the logistics involved with the unwinding of existing contracts with the Hawaii Community Foundation for tobacco cessation and youth vaping programs. In some instances, these contracts are for multiple years. Currently, there is nothing in this bill that would clarify how this would occur.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1296, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1
Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

Furthermore as noted in Senate Standing Committee Report No. 1268 from the Committees on Health and Higher Education:

"Your Committees note the testimony of the Department of the Attorney General, which raised concerns that the measure as drafted may violate article 1, section 10, of the United States Constitution, which bars states from passing laws impairing the obligation of contracts."

At the very minimum, more discussion and deliberation is needed to determine how implementation of this bill would impact existing contracts, contractors, and programs and services. After all, what good is saying that there is no intent to diminish existing programs if the practical effect of this measure puts a stop to these efforts? Accordingly, we respectfully ask that this measure be filed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: April 6, 2021
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Michael Champion MD, President
Christopher Flanders DO, HMA Legislative Liaison
Roger Kimura MD, AMA Representative for HMA
Cynthia Goto MD, HMA Legislative Liaison
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair HMA Legislative Committee
Linda Rosehill, Legislative Affairs

Re: HB 1296 RELATING TO STATE FUNDS HD1 SD1 Position: OPPOSE

HB 1296 will repeal the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund) which designed and implemented programs that follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs.

Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease, claiming 1,400 lives each year and creating \$526 million in annual healthcare costs in Hawaii. The Trust Fund helped thousands of tobacco users in Hawaii through its two programs, the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline and the Hawaii Tobacco Cessation Community Grant Program. The Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) strongly supports any and all legislation that helps tobacco cessation efforts.

The HMA was a collaborator with the State of Hawaii that led to the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement that resulted in the payment of over \$246 billion from four major tobacco companies to forty-six states, five territories, and the District of Columbia for tobacco-related health care costs and sweeping restrictions on tobacco-related advertising and marketing.

The HMA is aligned with the American Medical Association (AMA) on these issues. The AMA has robust positions on this subject with sixty-six relevant policies. The following are selected AMA Policies relevant to the statements above. The complete compendium of AMA Policies related to tobacco can be found at <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/search/Tobacco/relevant/7/>.

H-495.983. On Tobacco Litigation Settlements. Use Master Settlement Agreement and other tobacco settlement monies for nicotine addiction and tobacco.

H-490.997. On States' Allocation of Settlement Monies. A significant percentage of this money should be used for tobacco efforts. An appointed state level task force should be appointed, as needed to ensure that settlement monies are spent to support CDC guidelines on nicotine addiction and tobacco.

D-490.984. The policy specifically addresses diversion of tobacco monies for state budget crises.

D-490.976. Supports allocating at least the CDC-recommended minimum amount to support smoking cessation and related healthcare programs.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this issue.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Michael Champion, MD President-Elect – Angela Pratt, MD
Immediate Past President – Jerry Van Meter, MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
Executive Director – Thomas Kosasa, MD

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 10:19:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Mih	Testifying for Kapiolani Smokefree Families	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a pediatrician and medical director of the Kapi'olani Smokefree Families Program, I strongly oppose this bill. This is a shortsighted bill that risks the health of our keiki and their families.

The Kapi'olani Smokefree Families Program is funded through the Tobacco Prevention & Control Trust Fund via the Hawaii Community Foundation. The funds we receive are put to very good use and to the benefit newborns, children, adolescents, and their families by combatting the many health problems caused by nicotine and tobacco products.

We are the only pediatric hospital-based cessation program in the state. One of the most likely times for parents or family members to consider quitting nicotine or tobacco is when people find out about a pregnancy, at the birth of a newborn, or when a child in the hospital. I've spoken with parents who really want to quit smoking or vaping because they want a better future for their newborn baby, but struggle because these products are so addictive.

Eliminating nicotine and tobacco from their homes helps drastically improves the health of these keiki and reduces the chances of them becoming nicotine or tobacco users later in life. By being readily available in the hospital, the Kapi'olani Smokefree Families Program provides important support and intervention at crucial and impactful times.

Our program is just one of many important organizations that help combat the significant health problems caused by tobacco and nicotine. For decades, tobacco corporations knowingly and intentionally lied about the health risks of their products. The Tobacco Master Settlement was established to address the deaths and illness caused by tobacco. Since 2000, Hawai'i has saved over \$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs through significant reductions in smoking among youth, adults, and pregnant women. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai'i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs. As a reminder, these funds originate from the tobacco companies, not the taxpayers. Also, the tobacco and nicotine corporations annually

spend 3 times as much just on marketing in Hawaii. Raiding these funds now will harm the health of many, especially our keiki, for many years into the future.

Mahalo for your consideration and for opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP

Pediatrician

Medical Director, Kapi'olani Smokefree Families Program

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 5:54:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We strongly support HB1296.

The current use of tobacco settlement funds is a "black hole" with little visibility or accountability. Making the money part of the general fund will help both the public and lawmakers know how the money is spent and will give the flexibility that is needed.

Also stopping the waste and money hoarding going on in the fund will benefit the public at large from teachers to struggling families harmed by covid19.

Bravo for HB1296.

<http://hawaiismokersalliance.net/>



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*May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Pediatrics*

*Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawai'i at Hilo,
Department of Kinesiology and
Exercise Sciences*

*Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente*

Date: April 5, 2021

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1 Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (Coalition), a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ offers testimony in **strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1** which would repeal the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund) and transfer the balances to the general fund. The bill also has a blank appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) for tobacco prevention and control programs for FY2021-22 and FY2022-23.

The Coalition works to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our program consists of over 100 member organizations and 4,000 advocates that work to create a healthy Hawai'i through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

While the Coalition recognizes the serious budget deficits the state is facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciates the intent to appropriate funds to DOH, the long-term costs and harms of repealing the Trust Fund and the services it provides will greatly outweigh any short-term benefits. Dedicated, consistent funding is critical to developing robust tobacco prevention and education efforts, as it allows for program continuity and long-term planning. In addition, there would likely be a gap in services without any time to plan for the transfer of existing programming from a private entity to the state, Hawai'i would likely see a 12-24 month gap in any services for our residents.

Tobacco prevention and control programs save lives and money.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in our state and in the country. 1,400 people die from tobacco use or exposure in Hawai'i each yearⁱⁱ. Tobacco use causes \$170 billion in health care costs in the US each yearⁱⁱⁱ, including \$526 million in the state of Hawai'i^{iv}.

A 2018 report by the Hawai'i State Department of Health calculated that tobacco prevention and control policies, programs, and quit services have contributed to saving the state over \$1 billion in healthcare costs over the last twenty years^v. They also found that tobacco prevention and control had a strong return on investment: for every \$1.00 spent on tobacco prevention and control, Hawai'i saved about \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs. These savings were largely achieved through significant reductions in smoking rates among youth, adults, and pregnant women. Between 2009 and 2018, cessation providers funded through the Trust Fund have helped approximately 12,000 people quit using tobacco products^{vi}. Beyond the healthcare costs savings, these numbers represent thousands of lives and years of life saved.

The need for tobacco prevention and quit services continues as the industry finds new, innovative ways to hook our keiki onto nicotine.

The rise of e-cigarettes among youth has undone decades of progress and has highlighted the ongoing need for tobacco prevention and control programs. In 2019, 1 in 3 (30.6%) public high school students and more than 1 in 6 (18%) public middle school students in Hawai'i reported that they currently use e-cigarettes^{vii}. Adding to the concern is the growing link between tobacco use and COVID-19. In May 2020, Stanford University published a landmark study that found teens and young adults that use e-cigarettes had a five to seven times greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19 than those that did not use e-cigarettes^{viii}. Even without the global pandemic, youth e-cigarette use is a public health concern. E-cigarettes often contain nicotine, which is addictive and harmful particularly to adolescents, whose brains are still developing. And Hawai'i's teens are addicted – the percentage of frequent and daily high school users has doubled from 2017 to 2019^{ix}. Knowing how difficult it is to quit nicotine, cessation services tailored to youth are especially important in light of the youth vaping epidemic.

The Trust Fund provides a dedicated, stable source of funding for CDC-recommended strategies to reduce tobacco use^x.

Hawai'i should be applauded for establishing the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund with payments from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) with the tobacco industry. The Trust Fund, which is administered by the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), provides important tobacco prevention programs and quit services on the six main islands. In addition to managing the grants and contracts provided through the Trust Fund, HCF also provides financial management and investment oversight of the Trust Fund. This allows HCF to invest the funds which allows it to continue to grow. This has been particularly important as the youth vaping epidemic has placed a growing need for additional prevention programs and cessation services, exceeding to the amount of funding currently going into the Trust Fund (12.5%).

Through the programs and services HCF funds, the Trust Fund prevents a new generation of smokers and helps current smokers quit. The Trust Fund actively works to reduce disparities in tobacco use, prioritizing programs that serve populations most burdened by tobacco, including Native Hawaiians, people with low socio-economic status, people with behavioral health conditions, LGBT, and pregnant women.

Considering that 90% of smokers start before the age of 18^{xi}, education programs are important to prevent youth from ever trying tobacco products and protect them from a lifetime of addiction. The rise in e-cigarette use among Hawai'i youth demonstrates the continued need for prevention and education programs, even as cigarette use declines.

Because tobacco is highly addictive, cessation services offer critical support, counseling, and free nicotine replacement therapies to help adults and youth successfully quit. These services are provided through community organizations and federally qualified health centers, as well as the Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline.

Funding for tobacco prevention and cessation services pales in comparison to tobacco industry spending.

The CDC recommends that Hawai'i spend \$13.7 million each year to fund an effective, comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program, however, Hawai'i currently funds programs at 58% of the recommended amount^{xii}. In comparison, the tobacco industry spends \$26.1 million on marketing in Hawai'i - triple the amount Hawai'i spends on prevention^{xiii}.

The only source of funding for the Trust Fund is Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) annual payments.

No revenue from the cigarette tax or other tobacco product tax is allocated to the Trust Fund. The 1998 MSA was a result of 46 states suing the four largest tobacco companies in the United States to recover billions of dollars in costs associated with treating smoking-related illness. The settlement resulted in annual payments, in perpetuity, to the states that could be used to cover current and future costs of tobacco-related illnesses.

The Trust Fund was created in 2001 to reduce cigarette smoking and tobacco use among youth and adults through education, prevention, and cessation, and currently receives 12.5% of Hawai'i's annual MSA payments^{xiv}. The MSA payments and interest/dividends earned from investing the Trust Fund are its only sources of funding. Under the current structure, the Trust Fund is self-sustaining and does not receive any taxpayer dollars. In contrast, the cost of tobacco is borne by the entire community. Tobacco companies make billions of dollars while states are stuck with the bill to treat people with smoking-related diseases – essentially subsidizing their profits. The intent of the MSA was to help states cover the high price tag of treating people with smoking-related diseases.

Dedicated funding is critical to continue prevention and cessation services, reduce tobacco use, and reduce healthcare costs. General funds would require an appropriation process every two years and will not provide reliable and consistent funding needed for continuity of programming.

The transfer of these funds will provide a one-time relief to the State to help with the budget shortfall. If the state would consider a \$1.00 cigarette tax increase, that would generate nearly \$13 million to the state annually and save \$2 million in Medicaid spending in the first five years of the tax^{xv,xvi}. There has not been an increase in taxes on cigarettes and little cigars in over ten years. This would provide substantial revenue and have significant positive health impacts.

Additionally, an increase in price will lead to a reduction in smoking. Nationally, every 10 percent increase in cigarette prices reduces youth smoking by about seven percent and total cigarette consumption by about four percent.^{xvii}

Public supports MSA payments going towards tobacco prevention & cessation programs.

In a poll^{xviii} conducted by Ward Research Inc. for the Coalition in October 2020, **97%** of registered Hawai'i voters were in support of having a portion of the MSA payments dedicated to preventing kids from smoking and using e-cigarettes and helping adults to quit smoking.

Tobacco prevention and cessation has already saved the state over \$1 billion in healthcare costs, in addition to the priceless lives and life years saved, and is meant to continue the work in perpetuity. The tobacco industry does not stop, and despite the progress Hawai'i has made, there is still much work to do. Losing the Trust Fund and the programs it supports would increase the burden of tobacco in our communities and be a victory for the tobacco industry. For these reasons, **the Coalition strongly opposes HB 1296, HD1, SD1 and respectfully asks the committee to preserve the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Fund.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this importation issue.

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 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, *The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii*. http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii

ⁱⁱⁱ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, *Toll of Tobacco in the USA*
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0072.pdf>

^{iv} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, *The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii*. http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii

^v Holmes JR, Ching LK, Cheng D, Johnson L, Yap L, Starr RR and Irvin L. 2018. Tobacco Landscape. Honolulu: Hawai'i State Department of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division.

^{vi} Professional Data Analysts. Hawai'i Cessation Grants Program, Total number served: 2009 cohort 2016 cohort to date. 2018.

^{vii} 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Available at: www.cdc.gov/yrbss. Accessed on 02/03/2021.

^{viii} Gaiha SM, Cheng J, Halpern-Felsher B. Association Between Youth Smoking, Electronic Cigarette Use, and COVID-19. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2020;67(4):519-23.

^{ix} Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2017-2019. Available at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. Accessed on 02/07/2021.

^x Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs—2014*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

^{xi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2014

^{xii} "Broken Promises to Our Children" report, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/statereport>

^{xiii} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, *The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii*. http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii

^{xiv} Hawaii Revised Statute §328L-2

^{xv} <https://tobacconomics.org/research/state-tobacco-tax-increases-explanations-and-sources-for-projections-of-new-revenues-benefits/>

^{xvi} <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/CommitteeFiles/senate/CPH/CPHfiles/Hearing%20CPH-CPC%2010-17-19%20Info%20Materials.pdf>

^{xvii} Tauras JA, O'Malley PM, Johnston LD, "Effects of Price and Access Laws on Teenage Smoking Initiation: A National Longitudinal Analysis," Bridging the Gap Research, ImpacTeen, April 2001. Available at: <https://impacteen.uic.edu/access.htm>

^{xviii} This study by Ward Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=800 Hawaii registered voters (maximum sampling error +/-3.3%), conducted between September 21 – October 16, 2020.



To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is in **strong opposition to HB 1296**, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and transfers the balances to the general fund.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' goal is to protect children and save lives from the number one cause of preventable death: tobacco use. We envision a future free of death and disease caused by tobacco and support policies that will help us achieve those goals. Key to achieving that goal is a strong and robust tobacco prevention and education program like the one funded by the tobacco trust fund.

Hawaii should be applauded for establishing the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund for payments from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco industry. This trust fund structure is critically important to protecting the funds and ensuring that they are used as intended and dedicated to tobacco prevention.

Many states that did not establish a trust fund have seen their MSA payments squandered. Many states have failed to use their settlement funds for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Some states decided to securitize their payments – meaning they sold future payments for a much smaller lump-sum payment sooner. States that did this often lost out on receiving millions of dollars because they only received cents on the dollar.

But Hawaii chose not to securitize and by establishing a trust fund, which generates interest and earnings, the state has been able to preserve and grow the fund. This was smart, strategic thinking. In fact, Hawaii was a leader in establishing the trust fund and dedicating money to tobacco prevention and prevention programs.

Studies have clearly shown that funding these programs is a critical component in fighting tobacco related disease and mitigating the costs associated with it. Smoking costs that state's Medicaid program \$141.7 million and leads to a loss of \$387.3 million in lost productivity and wages.¹ Funding programs that focus on tobacco prevention and education are proven to lower smoking rates, and mitigate the financial impact smoking has on a state.

Tobacco control programs play a crucial role in the prevention of many chronic conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illness. Comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation programs prevent kids from starting to smoke, help adult smokers quit, educate the public, the media and policymakers about policies that reduce tobacco use, address disparities, and serve as a counter to the ever-present tobacco industry.

The empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation programs is vast and growing. There is more evidence than ever before that tobacco prevention and cessation programs work to reduce smoking, save lives and save money. The 2014 Surgeon General Report, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress*, calls for a number of specific actions, including: "Fully funding comprehensive statewide tobacco control programs at CDC recommended levels."² The report also notes that, "States that have made larger investments in comprehensive tobacco control programs have seen larger declines in cigarettes sales than the nation as a whole, and the prevalence of smoking among adults and youth has declined faster, as spending for tobacco control programs has increased." Importantly, the Report finds that long term investment is critical. It states, "Experience also shows that the longer the states invest in comprehensive tobacco control programs, the greater and faster the impact."

In addition, the Community Preventive Services Task Force, an independent expert advisory committee created by CDC, found "strong evidence" that comprehensive tobacco control programs reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among adults and young people, reduce tobacco product consumption, increase quitting, and contribute to reductions in tobacco-related diseases and deaths. The evidence also indicates that comprehensive tobacco control programs are cost-effective, and savings from averted healthcare costs exceed intervention costs.³

In 2007, the Institute of Medicine and the President's Cancer Panel issued landmark reports that concluded there is overwhelming evidence that comprehensive state tobacco control programs substantially reduce tobacco use and recommended that every state fund such programs at CDC recommended levels.⁴ In addition, the 2012 annual report to the nation on cancer found that death rates from lung cancer have dropped among women and attributed this decline to "strong, long-running, comprehensive tobacco control programs."⁵

Data from numerous states that have implemented programs consistent with CDC guidelines show significant reductions in youth and adult smoking. The most powerful evidence, however, comes from national studies that look across states and control for as many of the relevant

confounding factors as possible. These rigorous studies consistently show effects of tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

At the time of the settlement, Senator Daniel Akaka said “I can’t think of any more appropriate topic of concern at every level of government than the reduction of smoking in this society. This process of suing the tobacco companies, this process that led to the settlements, is not about getting some money for new highways or new types of programs at the State level. It started with the realization that smoking is the most dangerous public health problem in this country and we have to take concerted steps to do that. The suits resulted in a settlement, financially, but it won’t result in the effective eradication, elimination, or reduction of smoking unless we apply those proceeds to smoking cessation programs and other public health initiatives that are critical to the health and welfare of this country.”

And Hawaii’s program has had enormous success – it has reduced both adult and youth smoking significantly. Over the past 20 years, smoking among high school students in Hawaii declined by over 80 percent. Smoking among adults has decline by 26% since 2011. This is a program that works, so there is no need to tinker with it or dismantle how it gets funded.

If Hawaii wants to continue to be effective in reducing tobacco use and the devastating toll it takes on the health and lives of Hawaiians, eliminating the trust fund is not the answer. Relying on the general fund and the appropriations process year in and year out is not the way to provide reliable and consistent funding that allows for continuity of programming and strong staff leadership – elements we know are critical for success. It is also not the way to keep out the influence of the powerful tobacco industry, which is always looking to protect its bottom line.

We understand the unprecedented deficit in the current Hawaii state budget and the need to make cuts across the board, but cutting the trust fund will exacerbate future budget problems. Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are important to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state and the costs associated with it. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1296.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey Freitas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsey Freitas, MPA,
Advocacy Director
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
lfreitas@tobaccofreekids.org

¹ CDC, *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*, 2014.

² HHS, *The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General*, Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/index.html>

³ The Guide to Community-Preventive Services, "Reducing tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure: comprehensive tobacco control programs," <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/tobacco/comprehensive.html>.

⁴ Institute of Medicine, *Ending the Tobacco Problem: A Blueprint for the Nation*, National Academy of Sciences, 2007; President's Cancer Panel, *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: Policy, Program and Personal Recommendations for Reducing Cancer Risk*, 2006-2007 Annual Report; See also, Institute of Medicine, *State Programs Can Reduce Tobacco Use*, National Academy of Sciences, 2000; HHS, *Reducing Tobacco Use: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2000.

⁵ Ehemann, C., et. al., "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975-2008, Featuring Cancers Associated with Excess Weight and Lack of Sufficient Physical Activity," *Cancer*, March, 2012.



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu'uanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817
www.fightcancer.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

ACS CAN STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1296 HD1 SD1: Relating to State Funds

Cynthia Au, Grassroots Manager – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, advocates for public policies that reduce death and suffering from cancer including policies targeted at improving the health of our state by reducing tobacco use. ACS CAN recognizes that COVID-19 is serious and impacting all of our lives. At this critical moment with people focused on protecting their respiratory health, we must do everything in our power to keep our communities healthy and safe—which means building strong public health infrastructure including investing in comprehensive tobacco control programs. Long after this pandemic passes, people deserve to live full, healthy lives free from the ills of tobacco use. ACS CAN **STRONGLY OPPOSES** HB1296 HD1 SD1, which would eliminate funding for all tobacco control programs in Hawaii.

In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and won, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund). The Trust Fund was intended to reduce current and future healthcare costs from tobacco use in Hawaii. Do not let big tobacco win. **Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii.**

In Hawaii, the comprehensive tobacco control program is currently funded at \$7.9 millionⁱ which is 58% of what the CDC recommends for an effective program in Hawaii based on state-specific factors.ⁱⁱ Money allocated from the general fund will only be available for two years. To reduce the devastating health impact of cancer and other tobacco-related disease, we need to invest in programs that prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help others who are already addicted to quit. Despite much progress, the current rates of tobacco use remain unacceptable, and more than two-thirds (68%) of people who currently smoke indicate they would still like to quit.ⁱⁱⁱ Simply stated, these are people who need our help, their lives are depending on it. Changing the current structure on how tobacco

ⁱ The Truth Initiative, et al (2021).

ⁱⁱ CDC, 2014.

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Quitting smoking among adults – United States 2000-2015. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, January 6, 2017: 65(52); 1457–1464.

prevention is funded in Hawaii will disrupt the success from the last 20 years. It will take time for the Department of Health to come up with the processes to bring the tobacco prevention programs onboard. Instead of repealing the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund now, consider looking at the feasibility of Department of Health to take on the responsibility of implementing a successful program. Currently the public private partnership between the Department of Health and the Hawaii Community Foundation has led to the successful decline of tobacco use in the state.

The Problem: Tobacco Use and the Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii

24% of cancer deaths in Hawaii are attributed to smoking. Tobacco is an addictive and deadly product and tobacco use remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, smoking is a known cause of cancer of the oropharynx, larynx, lung/trachea/bronchus, stomach, liver, pancreas, kidney, cervix, bladder, colon, and acute myeloid leukemia.^{iv} In fact, smoking is responsible for an estimated 24.6% of cancer deaths in Hawaii.^v Additionally, smokeless tobacco use can cause cancer of the mouth, esophagus, and pancreas.

Smoking harms nearly every organ in the body and increases the risk for many types of cancer, heart attack, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, chronic bronchitis and other diseases.^{vi} People who smoke or who used to smoke are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Smoking is also a proven risk factor for cancer, COPD and heart disease, which also put people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Regardless of any association with COVID-19, the adverse health effects of smoking are well-documented and irrefutable.

Evidence suggests cigarettes are being manufactured and marketed in ways that make them more deadly than ever. The Surgeon General has determined that individuals who smoke cigarettes today have a much higher risk for lung cancer and COPD than did people who smoked in 1964, despite smoking fewer cigarettes.^{vii} If you add the deaths from all diseases attributable to smoking, the number of annual deaths climbs to 1,400 lives lost to smoking each year in Hawaii.^{viii} In fact, if nothing is done to reduce smoking rates in our state, 21,000 kids under 18 currently alive in Hawaii will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.^{ix}

Unfortunately, after years of decline, we've seen sharp increases in youth tobacco use nationwide in recent years, largely due to skyrocketing rates of e-cigarette use. At the same time, progress on previously declining youth use of other tobacco products, including cigarettes and cigars, stalled. Unfortunately, many young people who use tobacco do not identify the type they use as a tobacco

^{iv} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: 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, 2014.

^v American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. [State-Specific Smoking-Related Cancer Cases and Deaths, 2017](#). December 2020.

^{vi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking. Updated April 28, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/

^{vii} HHS, 2014.

^{viii} CDC, *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*, 2014.

^{ix} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020.

product or do not identify the tobacco product as harmful.^x Furthermore, studies have found that e-cigarette use increases the risk of youth and young adults using cigarettes.^{xi, xii, xiii}

It should be noted that the damage tobacco inflicts upon our state is not limited to death and disease. Annual health care costs from smoking exceed \$526 million in Hawaii including \$141 million Hawaii's Medicaid program spends each year to treat smoking-related diseases.^{xiv} Smoking-caused productivity losses cost Hawaii an additional \$387.3 million annually.^{xv} Given the projected budget deficit in Hawaii, it is vital that evidence-based programs are in place to reduce tobacco use and reduce taxpayer-funded healthcare costs. Increasing the state cigarette tax by \$1 per pack with a parallel tax on all other tobacco products would provide a substantial source of revenue for the state while further reducing tobacco use.

Reducing Health Disparities Related to Tobacco Use

Due to historical and ongoing patterns of tobacco industry marketing to targeted populations, tobacco use and tobacco-related disease tend to disproportionately impact some groups more than others. Here in Hawaii, the tobacco industry has targeted youth and Pacific Islanders. These differences are in large part due to the tobacco industry's targeted marketing through advertising, price discounting and other strategies.^{xvi} Well-funded, evidence-based tobacco control programs can counter the tobacco industry's targeting while providing resources to support those trying to quit and other health programs that directly benefit populations with higher tobacco use and deaths due to tobacco, and ultimately reduce health disparities.

Historical Efforts and Evidence in Support of Comprehensive Tobacco Control in Hawaii

In the over 50 years since the first Surgeon General's report on tobacco use was published, scientists and policymakers have learned a lot about what works to reduce tobacco use. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) evidence-based recommendations for a comprehensive tobacco control program provides states with the needed framework to educate people on the dangers of tobacco use as well as connect people who are already addicted to tobacco to resources to help them quit. Comprehensive tobacco control programs establish smoke-free policies and social norms, promote tobacco cessation and support those trying to quit, prevent initiation of tobacco use among prospective new users including youth and reduce tobacco-related health disparities among disparate populations.^{xvii} When appropriately funded in accordance with CDC recommendations, comprehensive tobacco control programs are able to reduce tobacco use.^{xviii}

^x Agaku I, O'dani S, Vardavas C, Neff L. Self-Identified Tobacco Use and Harm Perceptions Among US Youth. *Pediatrics*. 2018 Apr, 141 (4).

^{xi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: 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, 2016.

^{xii} National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. Public health consequences of e-cigarettes. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

^{xiii} Berry KM, Fetterman JL, Benjamin EJ, et al. Association of Electronic Cigarette Use With Subsequent Initiation of Tobacco Cigarettes in US Youths. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2019;2(2):e187794.

^{xiv} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020.

^{xv} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020.

^{xvi} The Truth Initiative, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Lung Association, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. A report entitled *Broken Promises to Our Children: A State-By-State Look at the 1998 State Tobacco Settlement 22 Years Later*. January, 2021. Available on-line at: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/statereport>.

^{xvii} CDC, 2014.

^{xviii} CDC, 2014.

The 2014 Surgeon General's report on tobacco concluded that comprehensive statewide and community tobacco control programs are effective in preventing and reducing tobacco use by keeping young people from becoming addicted and helping individuals who use tobacco to quit.^{xix}

Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Programs in Hawaii are Vital to Protect Youth

Due to skyrocketing rates of youth tobacco use in recent years, the decades of progress that has been made in reducing tobacco use rates in youth is now in jeopardy. Here in Hawaii approximately one third of high school students use tobacco products, including 5.3% who smoke cigarettes, and 30.6% who use electronic cigarettes.^{xx} Action is needed to reverse these trends. As the tobacco industry is evolving, the need for funding for tobacco prevention programs has never been greater.

Increased counter marketing that can protect kids from tobacco industry appeals is a critical aspect of state comprehensive state tobacco control programs.^{xxi} This type of media effort is needed to counteract the \$26.1 million per year that tobacco companies are spending to market cigarettes and smokeless tobacco alone in Hawaii not including their other deadly and addictive products.^{xxii} Funding is needed to negate the influence Big Tobacco's marketing has on youth.

According to projections developed by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the proposal to Hawaii cut's already underfunded program by 100% would mean 1,900 more Hawaii kids growing up to be adults who smoke and increase future healthcare expenditures by \$39.9 million.^{xxiii}

Maintaining tobacco control program funding for which we ask your support here today is backed by extensive science, evidence, and success stories from other states. Research shows that the more states spend on comprehensive tobacco control programs, the greater the reductions in smoking. The longer states invest in such programs, the greater and quicker the impact. Following the CDC funding recommendations for a comprehensive tobacco control program provides states with the needed framework to educate people on the dangers of tobacco use as well as connect people who are already addicted to tobacco to resources to help them quit.

Thanks to the decades of program implementation, surveillance, and evaluation, we now know what works best to prevent and reduce smoking and tobacco use. Extensive research shows enacting comprehensive smoke-free laws, regularly and significantly increasing tobacco taxes and adequately funding tobacco prevention and cessation programs work together to effectively reduce tobacco use and save lives. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. No matter when someone quits tobacco, there are large and immediate benefits—perhaps these benefits are as important now as ever. For some people who use tobacco products, the COVID-19 crisis might provide motivation to quit; for others, trying to quit during a time of stress might be even harder. Hawaii should do everything we can to help those who choose to quit to succeed.

If we are serious about fighting the death and disease caused by tobacco, holding HB1296 HD1 SD1 is a critical step. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

^{xix} HHS, 2014.

^{xx} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Oct. 20, 2020 <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

^{xxi} CDC, 2014.

^{xxii} The Truth Initiative, et al (2021).

^{xxiii} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Impact on Youth Smoking, Deaths & Related Health Costs From Changes to Hawaii Tobacco Prevention Funding. February 5, 2021

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Aloha, my name is Tyler Kamisato from Mililani, HI, 96789. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong opposition** to HB1296HD1 SD1 relating to defunding tobacco enforcement, Hawaii tobacco special settlement fund, and Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. Hawaii has made significant progress towards tobacco control and having the committee pass this bill would have Hawaii take several years worth of work back.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and have personally seen my friends under the influence of some of my own peers to try and start vaping using electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). All of her friends (who were under the age of 21 at the time) were using these tobacco devices because it was “cool.” When they saw that she wasn’t using one, they kept peer pressuring her to just “try it.” After taking several hits from her friend’s devices, she became addicted to nicotine and started using my own device. She’s only 19 but with the help of her older friends, she’s able to get her hands on e-cigarettes. I see what nicotine does to her almost everyday. At work, she has to take smoke breaks when it’s not busy because her body needs the nicotine or well she’ll start to have headaches, mood swings, ravings etc. She tells me that after using e-cigarettes, she gets really bad coughs and her throat hurts from time to time. Also, she feels a little “sluggish” here and there. She knows the risks but still chooses to participate in this act. E-cigarettes have negatively impacted her life and her life has only just begun.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii’s Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company’s settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the**

tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each year to ask for funding.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

- An estimated 1,400 deaths are caused by smoking each year.
- Over 24 % of cancer deaths in Hawaii are caused by smoking.
- 12.30% of adults and 5.3% of high school students smoke cigarettes.
- 30.6% of high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Tyler Kamisato
Mililani, 96789

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Ellie Ventula-Honda, from Honolulu, 96825. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1296HD1 SD1. I urge for the preservation of the tobacco enforcement special fund, Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund, and Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and it saddens me that funds for programs that have been proven to protect kids from the challenges of addiction to tobacco and especially to help the adults to quit is in consideration of being eliminated. My loving parents were cigarette smokers, which made a profound impact on my breathing. I developed asthma and many respiratory issues. My father passed away from lung cancer, and my mother was diagnosed with colon cancer, at which time; both parents were in their 60's. Today, I continue to struggle with respiratory problems and can't stand the smell of cigarettes' when I pass people who are smoking in public. I watch young children walking the mall with cigarettes and other smoking devices as they emulate the adults doing the same thing. Many are too young to even drive. Why do you even want to consider stopping the funding for prevention programs and why can't we just stop the selling of these deadly items as a whole? Consider the right actions to take for the children, perhaps your loved ones and for the people of Hawaii. Please continue the must needed funding for the state's tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Please make the right decision, do what's right...

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth

use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each year to ask for funding.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

- An estimated 1,400 deaths are caused by smoking each year.
- Over 24 % of cancer deaths in Hawaii are caused by smoking.
- 12.30% of adults and 5.3% of high school students smoke cigarettes.
- 30.6% of high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Ellie Ventula-Honda
Honolulu, 96825

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is J. Fowler, from Honolulu, 96814. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1296HD1 SD1. I urge for the preservation of the tobacco enforcement special fund, Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund, and Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

For as long as I remember my mom has smoked. She has smoked for over 30 years. Had the tobacco prevention programs been in place at a time when she started, I believe her life would be very different than what it is today. Please do not take away funding for programs that can help people to quit.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

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Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
J. Fowler
Kapolei, HI

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

As a concerned Hawaii Resident, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. My name is Uri Lyne Martos from Lihue, Kauai (96766). I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and I have seen the impacts of the rise in youth using e-cigarettes in my community. It is sad to see kids from Wilcox Elementary, after school hiding behind the War Memorial Convention Hall using e-cigarettes. I can spot them very clearly from my office window. The programs that the tobacco prevention and control trust fund support can help the youth kick these habits before they become life long tobacco users and end up with serious health issues.

I also have a friend who has been trying to quit smoking for some time and decided to call the quit line. The folks on the line connected her to resources to get smoking cessation products like the patch and gum that have aided her in her journey to be healthier and live a smoke free life for her and her family. If the tobacco prevention and control trust monies go away she will lose access to these resources.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention

control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

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Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii


Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

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Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uri Lyne Martos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Uri Lyne Martos
Kauai, HI 96766

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

My name is Beverly Wong, from Halawa, 96818. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

My father was a chain smoker and the results of this addiction his health was affected and family members were affected by colon cancer, prostate cancer and skin cancer problems. I strongly feel that we must stop the use of tobacco so that families will not experience the suffering and loss of loved ones.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

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Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

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Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Beverly Wong
Halawa, 96818

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Frank V. Guillermo, from Waipahu, 96797. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and I am in my last semester of my bachelor's program at University of Hawaii at Hilo School of Nursing.

My 11th grade brother once told me, "I always see students vaping everywhere like in school bus, hallway, and even in class. It looks so cool and smells so good. I want to try it!" As a future healthcare provider, I am obligated to educate my brother about the harmful effects of vaping and discourage him from vaping. My brother's statement and the increasing rate of high-school e-cigarette/vape users in Hawaii shows a lack of regulations, health education, and prevention programs of e-cigarettes.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from

the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

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Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

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Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Frank V. Guillermo
Waipahu, 96797

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Jenny Hausler from Pearl City, 96782. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network because cancer has affected my life. Tobacco killed my husband in March two years ago from smoking. He ended up dying from COPD and had lung cancer. He suffered greatly before he passed away and died an early death.

We have 6 grandchildren that I don't want to have the same fate as their grandfather. Our keiki are a vulnerable group and must be protected. Don't make it easy for electronic smoking devices to get into the hands of our kids from accessibility online and for being cheap to buy.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention

control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

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Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

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Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Jenny Hausler
Pearl City, 96782

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Kellen King from Ewa Beach, 96706. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and through my service, I've come to meet so many vibrant people. There is always one common thread - they have cancer. With lung cancer, I've witnessed the physical effects of the cancer and the corresponding treatments that have a devastating effect on the body. Some win their battle, and some lose their battle. They often tell me that they started smoking in school because it helped them to fit in. They didn't know what we know now and wish that there was a stronger force to stop them.

The effects of lung cancer go far beyond the personal physical ailments. Whole ohana and communities rally behind them in their fight against cancer. If your loved one battled cancer, you know the hollow feeling of helplessness as you watch them endure the suffering.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

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declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each year to ask for funding.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

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Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Kellen King
Ewa Beach, 96706

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is LokeLani Chong from Hilo, 96720. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and I am in my last semester of my bachelor's program at University of Hawaii at Hilo School of Nursing.

My father-in-law was severely affected from Tobacco use. He developed stage 4 oral cancer and almost lost his life. Luckily, he survived but there are many people who are not as lucky. Tobacco use does not just affect the person who is using it, but their whole family. I do not want to see my friends and family using tobacco products. Young adults, teenagers, and kids are easily fooled by these new and fruity flavors. They think that it cannot be bad for you if it tastes like fruits or candy. I see many underage teenagers selling E-cigarettes that have exotic flavors and using those products on social media. E-cigarettes and tobacco products need to have more strict regulations, so they do not fall into our youth's hands.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant

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Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
LokeLani Chong
Hilo, 96720

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Lauren Simpson-Gomez, from Honolulu, HI 96822. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network because I grew up with a mother who constantly smoked. She still does. I struggle with the consequences from second-hand smoke inhalation. Imagine what it does to those who actually smoke.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

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Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Lauren Simpson-Gomez
Honolulu, HI 96822

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Lynn Wilson, from Honouliuli, 96728. I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network because my brother died of lung cancer. Now his only child has to grow up without him, she was seven years old. Nicotine is so addicting and so unhealthy for the body---whether it be nicotine gum or the smoke itself---nicotine reduces the growth of a healthy body and its blood vessels etc. It restricts their ability to function essentially it puts a straitjacket on your veins and arteries. If you really love your country, don't take an opportunity for a healthy full life away from a child, teenager.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the**

tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each year to ask for funding.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

- An estimated 1,400 deaths are caused by smoking each year.
- Over 24 % of cancer deaths in Hawaii are caused by smoking.
- 12.30% of adults and 5.3% of high school students smoke cigarettes.
- 30.6% of high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Lynn Wilson
Honolulu, 96728

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Opposition of HB 1296 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

Position: Strong Opposition

Good morning Chairs, Vice Chairs, and joint committee members. My name is Madeline Bush from Hilo, 96720. I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund, to keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention programs out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and I am in my last semester of my bachelor's program at University of Hawaii at Hilo School of Nursing.

Vaping is an extremely prevalent issue that our country and the world have been facing for over a decade. E-cigarettes were originally created for the purpose of helping people who smoked tobacco cigarettes quit and reduce their exposure to tobacco. However, the companies that created these e-cigarette devices knew if they helped people quit, they would also begin losing money. Their strategy consisted of promoting a form of smoking that was "healthy", little did people know the contents within these products had equally if not more nicotine than regular cigarettes. In order to protect the teenagers and young adults within our community regulations and bans on these products absolutely need to be put into action. The companies that sell these products have no interest in what their products are doing to the bodies of their customers.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of

treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each year to ask for funding.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide. In Hawaii:

- An estimated 1,400 deaths are caused by smoking each year.
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- 12.30% of adults and 5.3% of high school students smoke cigarettes.
- 30.6% of high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually. While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB1296HD1 SD1 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Madeline Bush
Hilo, 96720

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

As a community member and Hawaii resident, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. My name is Cheryl K. Okuma, from Wailuku, Maui, 96793. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and am concerned with the rising use of electronic smoking devices by our youth. Knowing friends who succumbed to the health devastation of tobacco use, it is disheartening to see so much use of electronic smoking devices in our community. We simply must keep up this fight for the health of our family, friends and the community.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

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The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide.ⁱ In Hawaii:

- An estimated 1,400 deaths are caused by smoking each year.ⁱⁱ
- Over 24 % of cancer deaths in Hawaii are caused by smoking.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 12.30% of adults and 5.3% of high school students smoke cigarettes.^{iv,v}
- 30.6% of high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually.^{vi} While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,


Cheryl K. Okuma

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking. Updated April 28, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/

ⁱⁱ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

ⁱⁱⁱ American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. [State-Specific Smoking-Related Cancer Cases and Deaths, 2017](#). December 2020.

^{iv} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

^v Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

^{vi} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>



Hawaii COPD Coalition
700 Richards St., Suite 2410
Honolulu, HI 96813
Valerie@hawaiicopd.org
(808)699-9839

April 5, 2021

Honorable Senator Donovan M Dela Cruz
Honorable Vice-Chair Senator Gilbert S C Keith-Agaran
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

RE: **Strong Opposition to HB1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds**

Dear Representative Luke, Representative Cullen, Members of the Finance Committee,

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the people of our state, especially our keiki. **Please vote in favor of in opposition to HB1296, HD1, SD1**, which repeals the tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition and serve over 45,000 Hawaii adults diagnosed with COPD in Hawaii (with an estimated equal number still undiagnosed). Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD is an umbrella of diseases which include emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma. Since 2007, I have worked in Hawaii, nationally and internationally with countless people who have had their lungs and lives horribly affected by tobacco and nicotine. Many of these people have become disabled and unable to perform jobs and hobbies they enjoyed, spending a lot more time and resources with healthcare providers than they or any of us would like.

The Trust Fund's exclusive purpose is to reduce cigarette smoking and tobacco use among youth and adults through education, prevention, and helping people quit smoking and tobacco. This includes the statewide Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline, which provides free and confidential counseling and support services to help become tobacco free. It also includes prevention work across the state on the dangers of tobacco, including e-cigarettes and electronic smoking devices. Also included is community cessation services on all islands except Ni'ihau to help smokers quit.

The Hawaii COPD Coalition collaborated with Longs Drugs and was a grantee of this trust fund for 2007-2012. Through the grant funding, we were able to conduct free lung testing (spirometry) to help let people in the community throughout the state know how well or poorly their lungs were working and offered help for all people interested in quitting tobacco. We presented information about our program at several national conferences, including the American College of Chest Physicians and American Thoracic Society. Through these efforts, our organization was able to greatly increase awareness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other health problems connected with tobacco use.

There is still work to be done: Hawai'i is in the midst of a youth vaping epidemic, with **one in three high school students and one in five middle school students report "current use" of e-cigarettes**. Tobacco prevention and control funding has proven its worth to the state and is NOT the place to cut, as it is critical to saving lives and reducing healthcare costs.

The legislators are doubtless aware that COVID-19 is a very infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. A Stanford study showed that teens and young adults had a **five to seven times** greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19 than those who did not use e-cigarettes! [Vaping linked to COVID-19 risk in teens and](#)

[young adults | News Center | Stanford Medicine https://med.stanford.edu/new/all-new/2020/08/vaping-linked-to-covid-19-risk-in-teens-and-young-adults.html](https://med.stanford.edu/new/all-new/2020/08/vaping-linked-to-covid-19-risk-in-teens-and-young-adults.html).

This Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund was wisely designed to serve our state forever, to protect its people from tobacco and all its harms. The work continues and so must the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. **Please vote to oppose HB1296, HD1, SD1.**

Very truly yours,

Valerie Chang

Valerie Chang
Executive Director



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President
Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony in Opposition of HB1296, HD1, SD1 Relating to State Funds

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) administers the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") under contract with the Department of Health. The Hawai'i Community Foundation strongly opposes HB 1296, which repeals the statutes that created and funded the Trust Fund and transfers unencumbered balances to the general fund.

The success of the collective efforts to fight tobacco use in Hawai'i via the Trust Fund has saved lives and reduced healthcare costs over the last 20 years. The current structure allocates a portion of the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund (no State taxpayer dollars) to the Trust Fund ("Annual Allocation") administered by the Hawai'i Community Foundation ("HCF"). HCF invests Trust Fund dollars to generate more revenue to support this work and manages grants and contracts to reduce tobacco use. This structure is the more efficient and cost-effective means of achieving this success. The Department of Health ("DOH"), because of statutory constraints and limited staffing, would not be able to implement programs at the same magnitude and timeliness that HCF is able to achieve.

Creation of the Trust Fund. The Hawai'i Community Foundation ("HCF") administers the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") under a contract with the Department of Health, pursuant to HRS 328L-5. In 2000, the Department of Health, with concurrence of the Governor's Office, procured a contract with HCF to administer the Trust Fund. HCF has administered the Trust Fund since then under successive contracts. The current contract term ends on June 30, 2024.

- Trust Fund assets must be used exclusively for tobacco prevention and control, HRS 328L-5(c).
- The Trust Fund receives no tobacco tax revenue or Hawai'i taxpayer dollars.
- The Trust Fund only receives funding from the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund ("Special Fund", see HRS 325L-2). The Special Fund receives annual payments to the State of Hawai'i from the Master Settlement Agreement ("MSA") resolving class action litigation by 46 states against the tobacco industry.
- The Legislature allocates the Special Fund to a variety of recipients ("Annual Allocation"). The current allocation provides 12.5% to the Trust Fund (HRS 328L-2). In 2020, 12.5% resulted in \$4.76 million to the Trust Fund.

Investment of the Trust Fund. Based on investment guidelines set by HRS 328L-5(f) and the DOH contract, HCF management sets investment policy and contracts with an independent investment monitor to oversee the investment performance of the Trust Fund. The balance of the Trust Fund has ranged from \$43-\$59 million since 2004, with an annual average of \$49 million. The management of the fund has allowed the principal to be maintained, while providing additional dollars to the community programs. For example, over \$2 million was used from Trust Fund earnings for the 2020 programs. Currently, there is approximately \$41 million unencumbered in the Trust Fund.

- Net Trust Fund assets a/o 12/31/2020: \$59.92 million*
- Existing encumbrances: \$18.64 million**
- Unencumbered: \$41.28 million
- (* Includes \$55.5 million in the Trust Fund investment accounts.)
- (** Includes 2021 approved program budget and existing multi-year contract and grant commitments through the end of the current HCF contract with DOH on 6/30/24.)

Use of the Trust Fund. The Trust Fund investment earnings are used to supplement the Annual Allocation in order to create the set of programs that have successfully reduced tobacco use in Hawai'i and have saved millions in healthcare costs for our community.

- Investment earnings increase the amounts available to support tobacco prevention and control programs. For example:
 - 12.5% allocation from Special Fund received in 2020: \$4.76 million
 - CY2020 Trust Fund program budget: \$6.93 million
 - Difference covered by Trust Fund investment earnings: \$2.17 million

The Trust Fund investments amplify the MSA dollars to provide more services in Hawai'i while preserving principal, creating the long-term, stable source of funding for tobacco prevention and control that was intended by the Legislature in creating the Trust Fund.

Trust Fund Programs. The long-term stability of the Trust Fund corpus and the ability to use the Trust Fund for its intended purpose of impacting public health through reduced tobacco use has been the linchpin to the success the programs have achieved for our residents over the past 20 years. This stability and effectiveness are necessary for our community's continued success going forward. HCF administers a variety of tobacco prevention and control programs through the Trust Fund, following CDC best practices:

- Community Grants to local non-profits:
 - Cessation grants to help people quit smoking and vaping.
 - 16 grantees statewide on all major islands, including 9 on the Neighbor Islands.
 - Focus on populations with the highest tobacco consumption rates: low socio-economic status, Native Hawaiians, LGBTQ, mental health/substance abuse disorders.
 - Prevention grants to teach middle and high school youth about the dangers of vaping and encourage them not to start.
 - 13 grantees statewide on all major islands, including 7 on the Neighbor Islands
 - Grantees required to use evidence-based curriculum from Stanford University
 - HCF provides training and technical assistance to all grantees.
- Vendor contracts:
 - Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline

- Provides statewide cessation services to adults and youth via telephone, text, and website.
 - Health Communications
 - Promotes the Quitline and encourages tobacco users to quit
 - Youth vaping prevention and education campaign
 - Public education and advocacy
 - Supports the statewide Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i
 - Youth Council involves youth on all islands with tobacco education and civic engagement opportunities
 - 808NoVape website
 - Evaluation
 - Independent evaluation of Trust Fund programs
- Grant and contract selection process: HCF selects grantees and contract vendors using a competitive process:
 - Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Requests for Information (RFIs) are written based on current research on tobacco use and CDC best practices, then reviewed and approved by DOH staff,
 - RFPs and RFIs are published to Hawai'i non-profits, trade association websites, email listservs, and on HCF's website,
 - Applications are reviewed by HCF staff using standardized scoring sheets and rubrics based on published criteria. For major grants and contracts, HCF convenes external advisory committees consisting of DOH staff and other subject matter experts to review proposals and make recommendations.
 - Final selection recommendations are subject to an internal staff peer review process and HCF executive team review, including board approval for major grants and contracts.

Results. Over the past 20 years, the Trust Fund has helped to reduce tobacco consumption in Hawai'i, decreasing death and disease caused by tobacco and reducing healthcare costs.

- Since 2009, the HTQL and Cessation Community Grants Programs have enrolled at least **54,000** tobacco users in Hawai'i.
- Since 2009, the estimated number of tobacco users in Hawai'i who successfully quit after receiving Trust Fund-supported services is **13,628**
- In FY20 **96%** of the tobacco users served by the Community Grants Program and **87%** of HTQL enrollees were from populations with higher rates of tobacco use who often face barriers to accessing cessation services (low socio-economic status, Native Hawaiians, LGBTQ, mental health/substance abuse disorders).
- In FY20, the HTQL and Cessation Community Grants programs combined served:
 - 2,679 tobacco users with low socioeconomic status
 - 1,748 tobacco users with a mental health or substance use disorder
 - 1,210 Native Hawaiian tobacco users
 - 374 LGBTQ+ tobacco users
 - 94 pregnant tobacco users
- In FY20, 96% of Cessation Grant Program participants would recommend the program to a friend. The same was true for 87% of HTQL participants.
- These results have contributed to Hawai'i being a national leader in tobacco prevention and control, including:

- 137,000 adult cigarette smokers in 2019 (12.3% rate), compared to 214,500 adult smokers in 2000 (19.7% rate).¹
- 2019 youth cigarette smoking rate of 5.3% compared to 29.2% in 1997.
- Tobacco control efforts have realized savings of over \$1 billion in healthcare costs.²

Reporting and Accountability. Pursuant to the contract between DOH and HCF, HCF has final decision-making authority over all Trust Fund activities. There are several layers of oversight and accountability to assure effective use of Trust Fund dollars. This includes an objective RFP process, ongoing reviews of services provided to address tobacco use in Hawai'i, and the hiring of independent evaluators to assess Trust Fund programs. With HCF's experience and work in providing grants to hundreds of organizations, HCF has the expertise and staffing to manage and provide oversight over the grantees and vendors implementing the Trust Fund programs. HCF regularly reports Trust Fund results to DOH in accordance with the HCF-DOH contract.

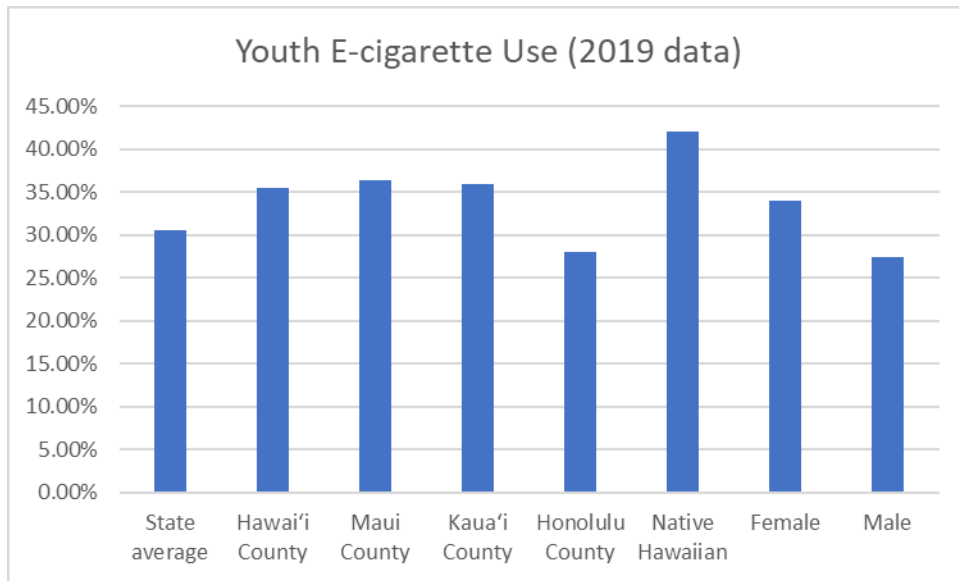
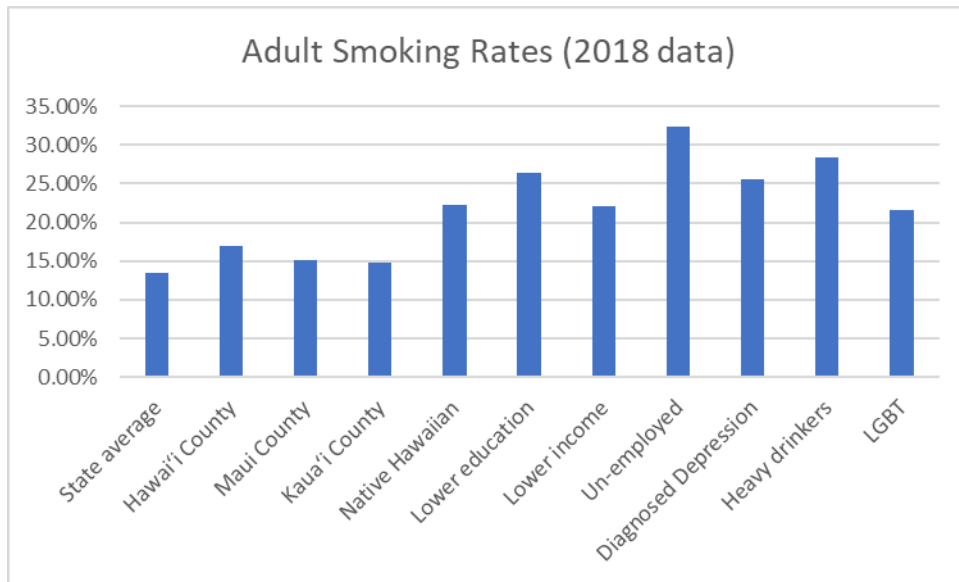
- Evaluation reports are regularly provided to DOH at least annually.
- Quarterly Trust Fund investment reports are provided to DOH.
- DOH reviews and approves the annual Trust Fund program budget.
- DOH reviews and approves RFPs and strategic changes in contract and grant programs

In 2000, the Legislature created the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board in HRS 328L-6 ("Advisory Board"). Two Advisory Board positions are nominated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and are appointed by the Governor, while other positions are appointed by the Department of Health. Advisory Board meetings are open to the public under State Sunshine Laws. HCF provides reports on Trust Fund activities and annual budgets at the Advisory Board meetings. The Advisory Board recommends strategic direction of the Trust Fund and reviews the annual Trust Fund program budget.

Ongoing Need to Serve Most Vulnerable Populations. Dismantling the Trust Fund would end the work that is not finished. Continued efforts are vital to our community health - to prevent youth from becoming addicted to nicotine, and to help youth, pregnant women, and adults to quit. Native Hawaiians, Filipino, and Pacific Islanders have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, death, and life disruptions during the pandemic – and these are key communities the Trust Fund serves. See tables below illustrating the higher smoking and e-cigarette rates among the counties and selected populations.

¹ National median: 16.0% in 2019. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/>), Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, Prevalence Data and Analysis Tools, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data.

² Hawai'i State Department of Health, "Hawai'i Tobacco Landscape", <https://health.hawaii.gov/tobacco/files/2018/03/tobaccopolicy.pdf>



Collaborative efforts between DOH, HCF, and community organizations have kept to an aggressive timeline to launch the comprehensive youth prevention education program to address the vaping epidemic, and strengthening the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline services to meet the needs of addicted keiki. The work is not yet done.



ALOHACARE

To: The Honorable Senator Jarrett Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Trish La Chica, Community and Government Relations Manager, External Affairs

Hrg: April 6, 2021, 9:30 am via Zoom

RE: **HB1296 HD1 SD1, Relating to State Funds – Oppose**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to **HB1296 HD1 SD1**, which would repeal the Hawaii tobacco control and prevention trust fund, transfer the balance to the general fund, and allocate an undisclosed amount to the Department of Health for tobacco prevention and control in FY 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

AlohaCare is concerned with this measure's proposal to repeal the tobacco control and prevention trust fund, which receives an annual amount from the Master Settlement agreement that was established to recover the damages brought upon by the deaths and illness caused by tobacco. Since 1999, the Legislature and the Hawaii State Department of Health has worked to ensure that the trust fund is designed to receive payments that is used to cover current and future costs to fight tobacco use. This program has been successful in reducing the youth smoking rate from 27.9% in 1999 to 5.3% in 2019 and the adult smoking rate from 19.9% in 2000 to 13.4% in 2019 ([Hawaii Tobacco Landscape, Dept. of Health](#)). The tobacco control and prevention trust fund is a great example of strong public health programming that keeps our communities and healthy and safe, especially for the thousands of lives that have already benefitted from this program.

AlohaCare believes that keeping this funding intact would help save lives and reduce healthcare costs paid with tax dollars through the State of Hawaii and U.S. Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. AlohaCare's role is to administer health insurance benefits for Medicaid and dual eligible Medicare beneficiaries on behalf of the Hawaii Department of Human Services and CMS.

In 2020, AlohaCare was charged \$13.9 million treating about 6,140 members for tobacco and vaping-related illness. Among adult tobacco users, 24.2% were being treated for a serious

chronic condition. On average for each member, the charges for all health care services provided to tobacco users were 154% higher than charges for non-tobacco users. In addition, AlohaCare is concerned with the rising rates of youth being diagnosed with nicotine dependence and vaping-related disorders. In 2020, the youngest recorded age being treated for vaping at AlohaCare was 10 years old.

AlohaCare believes that there is never a more important time than now to invest in strong public health infrastructure and programming to prevent more lives lost due to tobacco-related complications and disease. We appreciate the Legislature's current proposals to regulate an industry that has contributed to the public health crisis that resulted in an outbreak of 2,807 e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) cases or deaths. [A 2020 Stanford study](#) has found that young adults who vape were five to seven times more likely to get the COVID-19 virus.

Hawaii has been experiencing a youth vaping epidemic and preserving the Hawaii tobacco control and prevention trust fund reflects the Legislature's commitment to protect our young people's health from the vaping and tobacco industry's efforts to get them addicted to life-threatening habits.

Mahalo and we are grateful for the opportunity to testify.



Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Adventist Health Castle is in **strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1**, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

Our organization is committed to our community's wellbeing and blessed to be working alongside with you in serving our community. An example of Castle's commitment is our "Live Well Tobacco Free Program", a comprehensive tobacco treatment program that has been funded by the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund over the past twelve years. This free program has greatly impacted the well-being and quality of life for participants and their ohana, especially in east and north Oahu and throughout our state. It continues to successfully help tobacco users from priority populations quit tobacco use, including those with serious behavioral health diagnoses, pregnant mothers, the underinsured or uninsured, native Hawaiians and those dealing with substance abuse and/or homelessness. It reaches strong proportions of highly addicted tobacco users while providing participants with grant-funded nicotine replacement medications—a critical component which assists individuals to have the confidence to become tobacco-free and remain tobacco-free.

Even through the challenges of providing excellent care through the current pandemic, our program has been able to broaden access to the entire state through our free, remote, virtual services for effective individual counseling, group classes and support. Considering the research that shows **young adult and teen e-cigarette users had a five to seven times greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19** when compared to those that did not use e-cigarettes, our program continues to educate our community and provide hope with a proven strategy for tobacco cessation to increase immunity and reduce risks in the fight against COVID-19.

Yes, it is true that the bill appropriates \$5.7 million per year for the next two years for tobacco prevention and control, but that is less than the \$6.9 million that was spent in 2020. **That would amount to over a \$1 million cut in services.** It would also take time for all the contracts to transfer from Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) to DOH, possibly resulting in a **gap in services.** For now, it is a general fund appropriation, *not* in DOH's base budget (and there would have to be a **request to ensure funding continues beyond those 2 years**).

Furthermore, there are benefits of the trust fund structure itself. The trust fund is a **dedicated source of funding** for tobacco prevention and control efforts - its reliability and consistency are important for program stability and continuity. In addition, **HCF invests the money in the trust fund, allowing it to grow.** According to an article by the Hawaii Tribune Herald, HCF Program Director, Tom Masuda said, "... If the trust fund is repealed, and if instead the money goes to the DOH, the DOH does not have the ability to invest general fund dollars to raise additional revenue as a state entity. They cannot do that." The interest earned through its investments have helped them adapt and fund programs in response to the rise in youth e-cigarette use.

Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are important to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo,



Allie Hall, RN, BSN, MPH, NCTTP
Program Coordinator, Tobacco Control
Tobacco Treatment Specialist



LATE

To: Senator Donovan M. Delacruz, Chair WAM
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair WAM

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, Tuesday at 9:30 am

Hamakua-Kohala Health is in **strong opposition to HB 1296**, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and transfers the balances to the general fund.

I am a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Tobacco Treatment Specialist employed by Hamakua-Kohala Health. About 45 years ago, I helped my Father, a Family Practice Physician, provide Tobacco Cessation for the first time. I have continued to provide Tobacco Cessation Services as a volunteer throughout the next 40 years. Then in 2013, Hawaii Community Foundation was able to provide Hamakua Health Center a grant to provide Tobacco Cessation Services to North Hawaii and the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island. I was asked to join the clinic as a paid Tobacco Treatment Specialist. With the help of the Hawaii Department of Health, Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii, and Hawaii Community Foundation, we were able to develop our present day Tobacco Cessation Program.

To date, since the beginning of our program, **we have enrolled almost 500 North Hawaii and Hamakua Coast residents into our program.** Of the near 500 residents that have enrolled, **92%** are from 5 priority populations that the Tobacco Grant targets. These 5 are: Low Socio Economic background, Native Hawaiian, Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health, LGBTQ, and pregnant mothers. Many of the enrollees fall in more than one priority group. These diverse populations have the strongest addiction and highest rates of Nicotine abuse.

I want to point out that Nicotine, as a drug of abuse, is the hardest addiction to overcome. Almost all of our Substance Abuse patients at our clinics have been able to quit heroin, crack cocaine, alcohol, and meth Amphetamine, before they can quit Nicotine. Most of our patients need between 10-18 attempts to quit Nicotine (according to which study you look at). Only 1% of people who attempt to quit smoking via "cold turkey" – without medications or counseling - are able to quit on any given try. Nicotine changes the brain by developing nicotine receptor sites that never completely disappear even after years of quitting smoking. And starting smoking isn't necessarily a person's choice. Many of our patients have been addicted in the womb by smoking moms and second hand smoke from family members who smoke in the home.

The grant requires that the employees for the Cessation Grant become Tobacco Treatment Specialists. My first certification was from Mayo clinic. With this training I am given the skills to counsel and medically treat patients. (All medications given to patients are

physician approved.) Remember that only 1% can quit without medication or counseling. The best results happen with 4 or more counseling sessions and with nicotine replacement medications to stop smoking

The grant has allowed us to provide nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), e.g. nicotine patches, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenge, and Chantix, without cost to our patients. Most insurance only provides 2-4 weeks of NRTs to a smoker. The highest dose of nicotine patch that they provide is 21 mgs, or the equivalent of 1 pack of cigarettes. It is not unusual for our patients to smoke 2 to 3 packs of cigarettes per day. They need from 42 to 63 mgs a day of replacement nicotine. Using the step down method, it usually takes 2-3 months of therapy to quit. Through the grant, we are able to provide for FREE these NRTs to our patients

As a TTS, I service all tobacco users, not just cigarette smokers. That means with the rise of vaping, we are servicing more youth than ever before. Almost all e-juice has nicotine as an ingredient whether it is listed or not. With vaping it is always a guessing game of how much NRT these patients will need to quit.

I had a college student who wanted to quit vaping. My best estimation of the amount of nicotine she was addicted to was 1 patch of the 21 mg dose. I then sent her home with some 7 gm and 14 mg patches in case we needed to increase or decrease her dose. Several days after she began using the 21 mg patch she called to say it wasn't working. I increased her dose to a 21 mg patch plus a 14 mg patch. Three or four more days past and she called again to state that this was not working. I then had her use 2 of the 21 mg patches. A week later, she called to say that this dose of nicotine replacement (42 mgs/day) was working. With the step down method of reducing the dose, she was able to quit vaping in about 2 months. She still does not vape. How would she know how many patches she needed without our program? She would never have used enough and would still be vaping.

If the Hawaii Tobacco and Prevention Control trust fund is given over to the legislator, there is no guarantee that the Tobacco Cessation programs or even Quitline will be in existence for future tobacco users to access for help to quit their tobacco use. Current lawmakers may promise to fund these programs, but that promise is good only for as long as that lawmaker is in office. Successors to the present lawmakers are not bound by those promises. Which will lead us to revert back to the pre- Master Tobacco Settlement when there was little to no hope for Tobacco users to kick their nicotine addiction because the current programs will have disappeared.

For these reasons, Hamakua-Kohala Health and I strongly oppose HB1296.

Mahalo,

Kathyrn Akioka RRT, TTS

Hamakua Health Center
45-549 Plumeria St.
Honoka'a, HI 96727
808.775.7204

Kohala Health Center
53-3925 Akoni Pule Highway
Kapaau, HI 96755
808.889.6236

April 5, 2021

To: Chair Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

RE: **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1296 HD1 SD1**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to **HB1296 HD1 SD1**. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help increase overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawai'i a healthier, happier place to live, work, and play. To accomplish that goal, we work to lower rates of obesity, tobacco use, and chronic disease.

HB1296 HD1 would repeal the the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, which jeopardizes decades of progress in tobacco prevention and control efforts at a time it is needed the most; multiple studies show heightend negative health outcomes from the COVID-19 virus with active, and/or a history of tobacco use. Smokers were 1.4 times more likely to have severe symptoms of COVID-19 and 2.4 times more likely to be admitted to an ICU, requiring mechanical ventilation, or to die compared to non-smokers.^{1,2}

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund supports essential community-based tobacco cessation programs for adults with mental health and/or substance abuse challenges, those from the LGBTQIA+ communities, and individuals of low socio-economic status. These individuals are also often struggling with other social determinants of health, including unemployment, poor access to healthy food and healthcare services, houselessness, and limited social support networks. These individuals reside in your disticts and are important stakeholders with needs that we cannot ignore. Many of these smoking prevention and cessation programs operate in disadvantaged and rural communities, where smoking disproportionately affects community members.

In addition, we're seeing troubling statistics around electronic smoking device (ESD) use by youth; from 2017-2019, ESD use more than doubled among high school students and tripled among middle school students.³ Locally, 27% of middle school students and 42% of public high school

¹ Sanchez-Ramirez D.C., Mackey D. Underlying respiratory diseases, specifically COPD, and smoking are associated with severe COVID-19 outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Respiratory Medicine*. 2020;171

² Emami A., Javanmardi F., Pirbonyeh N., Akbari A. Prevalence of underlying diseases in hospitalized patients with COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Archives of Academic Emergency Medicine* 2020;8:e35.

³ Wang, T. W., et al. (2019). Tobacco Product Use and Associated Factors Among Middle and High School Students. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Surveillance Summaries*, 68(12):1-22

students acknowledged trying electronic smoking devices in 2017.⁴ Data from local and national sources, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cite numerous safety and public health concerns with its use. According to the CDC, “young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.”⁵

For the health and safety of our families, please oppose this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong opposition to HB1296 HD1 SD1.**

Sincerely,

Colby Takeda, MPH, MBA
Senior Manager

⁴ 2017 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

⁵ Dunbar, M. S., Davis, J. P., Rodriguez, A., Tucker, J. S., Seelam, R., & D'Amico, E. J. (2018). Disentangling Within- and Between-Person Effects of Shared Risk Factors on E-cigarette and Cigarette Use Trajectories from Late Adolescence to Young Adulthood. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, nty179.

April 5, 2021

RE: HB1296 HD1 SD1



Relating to State Funds

The **Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative** brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home. The members of PHC Honolulu are involved in supporting efforts that enable children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and more.

Smoking kills 1,400 Hawaii residents each year and accounts for about a quarter of Hawaii cancer deaths. Hawaii's youth have some of the highest document rates of tobacco and electronic-smoking device (vaping) use in our nation. Rates among those living in rural and economically challenged communities is especially high. Over the last year, during the pandemic, anxiety and stress levels have increased and we suspect rates have also increased.

Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has been a vital factor in Hawaii's fight to reduce disparities related to tobacco, including e-cigarette, use. The trust fund is responsible for funding a majority of tobacco control and prevention activities. Trust fund dollars support ranges from public health campaigns to individual tobacco cessation services in communities.

We strongly **oppose** HB1296 HD1 SD1, which proposes to repeal the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund and transfers unencumbered balances to the general fund.

Hawaii needs long term solutions to recover from this pandemic. Maintaining and strengthening the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund will be an essential step.

Thank you very much for allowing us to testify.

May Okihiro

Daniel Leung

Daniela Spoto

Paula Adams

Diane Tabangay

Michael Libertini

Stacy Evensen

Tina Tamai

Greg Waibel

Ray L'Heureux

Tammy Chase-Brunelle

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

As a health provider in Hawai'i, I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea. In my opinion, it will undo years of successful hard work with many of our most vulnerable residents and communities. Tobacco programs funded by the trust fund saves lives on all of our islands and should be continued as it has been.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawaii.

To balance tobacco advertising, the Hawaii legislature allocated a portion of the state's settlement dollars to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The Fund establishes and funds community tobacco prevention and control programs, and a State Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their nicotine addiction, all to protect the health of our community and reduce future healthcare costs.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not tax payers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago

that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo,

Allison Seales

Allison Seales, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist working with O'ahu, Moloka'i, and Lana'i communities

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

As a concerned parent and a substance abuse prevention professional, I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawaii.

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If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not tax payers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raquel Gali". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a distinct "G" at the end.

Raquel Gali

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 2:05:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikkya Taliaferro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii student and resident, I am in strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

For over 20 years, the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has worked to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state. I have seen firsthand the impact of tobacco in my school and repealing the Tobacco Fund will only accelerate this problem.

Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are important to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 6:11:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I continue to strongly support this bill.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 6:34:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alysa Lavoie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Defunding any substance use program (organizations) at a time when substance use is on the rise is not a good choice.

TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA
P.O. Box 61619 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: April 1, 2021 Decision Making: April 6, 2021

Re: HB 1296, HD 1, SD 1

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 1296, HD 1, SD 1.

I urge you to not shortchange prevention and public health efforts. The Tobacco Settlement Funds going to the community make up an already slim portion of the Settlement dollars. The proposed elimination of an already small sliver must not happen. The Trust Funds have been successful in reducing tobacco use in our State. Continued funding is necessary to combat the insidious companies that continue to profit on the backs of young people, poor people, and people of color. Vaping/e-cigarettes must be addressed now. Do not let the lessons learned from the fights against the tobacco industry go to waste. It is unfortunate that the successes of public health programs and efforts have caused a different problem: the potential elimination of programs that will prevent a future health crisis and costs associated to address its impacts.

I urge you to kill this measure and allow for funding of prevention and public health efforts to combat tobacco and tobacco-related issues.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 8:06:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernard Sr Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs to do anything it can to change the terrible dynamic of physicians leaving Hawaii permanently to practice in other states. This bill does something that might make a few physicians decide to stay instead of leaving. Deferring or not acting to pass this bill will only further demoralize our Hawaii physicians and serve to exacerbate our statewide physician shortage. This is a real and growing problem approaching crisis status. Passing this bill is essential.

Sincerely,

Bernard Robinson, MD; Prematurely Retired Neurosurgeon

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 8:51:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

04-01-21

RE: HB1296 HD1 SD1

Aloha,

I oppose this Bill. For over 20 years, I know that the Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has **reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving lives, healthcare costs and transforming individuals and families towards quality of lives.** However, there is still work to be done, given the alarming rise in e-cigarette use among youth. Dedicated, consistent funding for tobacco prevention and cessation is needed to reverse this alarming trend, nurture a quality of life for all and to protect public health.

Mahalo

John A. H. Tomoso+, Social Worker and Episcopal Priest

51 Ku'ula Street, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

808-280-1749, john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

cc: CTFH-Maui

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran

Rep. Justin Woodson

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:12:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Ng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Sen. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sen. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1296. I have family who has personally benefitted from Tobacco Quitline, funded by the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. To take this funding away will be detrimental for years to come. There will always be people struggling with tobacco use, and they will have few resources to rely on.

Furthermore, taking away this money will not actually balance the 2020 state budget. Because this trust is not taxpayer-funded, it is all the more troubling to see this important resource stripped away for a short-term benefit. For public health protections to be taken away, especially during this ongoing pandemic, is incredibly disheartening and disappointing. Please do not ignore the majority of the population when making this consequential decision.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:28:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Ching, MD, MPH	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter is in **strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1**, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

Children are disproportionately affected and targeted by efforts to begin smoking or using electronic nicotine delivery devices. For many, this leads to a lifetime of nicotine addiction and health consequences. This bill would have the effect of requiring tobacco control and prevention funding to be renewed on a regular basis, hastening the likelihood that this will become a neglected area of the public health.

Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are important to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo,

Michael Ching, MD, MPH

President

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:44:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Manali-Leonardo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Registered Nurse who has practiced in Hawaii for almost 40 years.

I have worked at Community Health Centers, for the largest health insurance company in the state, the Dept. of Health, and for privately owned health companies that served the military.

All of the patients I have cared for, at some point have been impacted (negatively), healthwise, by first, second and third-hand smoke. It is a huge problem that affects all ages of individuals. The negative health consequences are costly to the individual and the community. They are also economically costly as well.

The state of Hawaii has done honorable work to improve the health of all Hawaii citizens. Don't allow these decades of advancement in health be in vain. These funds must be preserved. For the sake of the continued health of the people of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Nancy Manali-Leonardo, RN, B.Ed.

808-542-1556

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 7:24:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marivelle Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference



Aloha,

My name is Marivelle Martin, and I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB 1296, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and transfers the balances to the general fund.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not taxpayers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

I currently work as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist for Bay Clinic, Inc in Hawaii County. There are many people in our community who want and need to quit using tobacco, whether it's cigarettes, vapes/electronic cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, hookah, etc. Many of them try to quit on their own but then relapse and find it even more difficult to quit again. Tobacco prevention and cessation programs really do help our community to get people to quit and become healthier and also to educate everyone from Keiki to Kupuna.

Many of the people I work with come from all walks of life, but more so from low socioeconomic status and either have no medical insurance or their insurance doesn't cover the Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) such as nicotine patches, gum, or lozenges. These NRT when bought on your own are very costly and deter people from purchasing them to help with their quit journey. With these programs in place, we help and educate our community.

The funds that are received for these programs go into buying NRT, educational material, and incentives, which we in turn provide to our patients/clients along with education, one-to-one and or group counseling, and continuous follow up and support throughout their quit journey.

Taking the funding away to transfer into the general fund would be detrimental to the Tobacco prevention and cessation programs as we would not be able to continue at the capacity it is now at and people would possibly be turned away as there would be less available programs to assist them.

There have been many patients I have worked with that have quit other addictions such as cocaine, alcohol, heroine, etc and have stated that the last thing they were working on quitting was cigarettes and it was the hardest to quit. When asked why, they would say because it was legal, readily available wherever you go, and very addictive! When these patients/clients finally do quit, they say they feel so much stronger, healthier, able to breathe better, and free from the addiction they have been battling to quit.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are important to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 1296.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo,

Marivelle Martin

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 8:19:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Afualo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Melanie Afualo and I am the Family, Alumni Community Engagement Coordinator for Kahuku High and Intermediate School and I want to go on record to Oppose HB 1296.

Funding for Tobacco prevention is much needed in Hawai'i schools to help with education to students, families, and the community. One of our hot topics on campus and community is the rise of vaping and the use of tobacco products among children and we need the funding to continue in order to have helpful resources such as the Hawai'i Public Health Institute come to our school and help us tackle this growing problem. With students back on campus after a full year, we need to continue that important fight and you leave us defenseless if you remove funding. Please consider this and choose to restore funding for this important and much-needed support. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 10:07:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1296 HD1

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 1:21:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chelsea pang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't stop something when it working! Vaping and ecigs are on the rise and need more research. Once someone is addicted to e-cigarettes how are they going to quit without the tobacco cessation fund? Thank you

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 3:23:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Everything that can be done to discourage tobacco use should be done. Some of this is accomplished with the current Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

Jeoparding this fund is not in the public interest.

I will not help reelect anyone who votes for GH1296.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 3:51:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I like this idea.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 9:56:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Braun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a professor of public health and social work, testifying as an individual. I am writing today to strongly oppose [HB 1296](#), **which will repeal the tobacco prevention and control trust fund**. This bill jeopardizes decades of progress in tobacco prevention and control efforts at a time it is needed the most.

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. However, there is still work to be done with the rise in e-cigarette use among youth. Dedicated, consistent funding for tobacco prevention and cessation is needed to reverse this alarming trend and protect public health.

The Trust Fund's purpose is to reduce cigarette smoking and tobacco use among youth and adults through education, prevention, and helping people quit smoking and tobacco. This includes:

- Prevention work across the state on the dangers of tobacco, including e-cigarettes;
- Community cessation services on all islands except Ni'ihau to help smokers quit; and
- Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline, which provides free and confidential counseling and support services to help people become tobacco-free.

Because of the work supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund:

- Youth cigarette smoking prevalence has decreased dramatically since the inception of the trust fund, from 27.9% in 1999 to 5.3% in 2019.
- Adults cigarette smoking prevalence is at about 12%, compared to 17% nationally.
- Hawai'i has saved over \$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs through significant reductions in smoking among youth, adults, and pregnant women. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai'i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs.

However, there is still work to be done. Hawai'i is in the midst of a youth vaping epidemic, with one in three high school students and one in five middle school students

report “current use” of e-cigarettes. Too many adults still smoke. Tobacco products still lead to premature death and disability, as well as pollution.

I understand the dire fiscal situation the state is in, however tobacco prevention and control funding is critical to saving lives and healthcare costs.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 11:56:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mary santa maria	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Please DO NOT PASS this bill. Putting the TSF into the General Funds will be devastating to the tobacco use prevention and cessation programs that have been funded by this restitution fund from the tobacco industry. Remember that this is not tax payer money, but rather funds that were given to states to coneract the damage by tobacco use. The State and tax payers save thousands annually because of this fund. It may take at least a couple of years to make the TSF available to the GF any way, and hopefully the State will be in much better financial position.

Please don't abandon the programs that we have in place. Please do not ask a small staff at DOH to sustain what is current.... they can't. And please don't turn your backs on the ramifications of approving this bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Santa Maria, M.S., M.P.H.

TOBACCO TRUST FUND

We are writing Prevention and Control Trust Fund was established for the purpose of preventing youth from starting to use cigarettes, and help those who were already smoking to quit, using the Tobacco Settlement monies. This fund has used the money for education and tobacco quit lines, among other services. The result has been a dramatic decline in adult and youth smoking rates and significant health care savings. Unfortunately, tobacco is still a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality. In addition, there has been an explosion in the use of e-cigarette products over the last decade, especially amongst our youth, resulting in one of the highest rates of vaping in the country. Our state spends only 5.2% of its tobacco revenue on tobacco prevention programs. This is significantly lower than the CDC recommends. Eliminating the Tobacco Prevention and Control Fund will result in even less being spent on tobacco cessation efforts, causing our state to regress to the bad old days of tobacco-related disease, and also exposing our youth to the risks of e-cigarettes with no tools to educate them. We have spent considerable time and effort over the past 40 years on tobacco cessation among youth and adults in the practice of pediatrics (Linda) and as an American Cancer Society volunteer and president of the Hawaii Pacific Division (Robert). It would be tragic to see all of the sustained and successful efforts of all of us concerned about youth tobacco use and its deadly consequences be reversed by the elimination of the Tobacco Trust Fund.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON HB 1296.

Robert S. Weiner MD
General Surgery and Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Linda Weiner, MD
Pediatrician, Kauai
to urge the House to oppose HB 1296. Over 20 years ago, the Hawaii Tobacco

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 1:44:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

- The Trust Fund’s purpose is to reduce cigarette smoking and tobacco use among youth and adults through education, prevention, and helping people quit smoking and tobacco. This includes:
 - Prevention work across the state on the dangers of tobacco, including e-cigarettes;
 - Community cessation services on all islands except Ni‘ihau to help smokers quit; and
 - Hawai‘i Tobacco Quitline, which provides free and confidential counseling and support services to help people become tobacco-free.
- In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco. From the Master Settlement Agreement, the Hawai‘i State Legislature allocated a portion payments to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.
- The tobacco industry spends \$26.1 million in marketing in Hawai‘i annually, but the [state spends only \\$7.9 million on tobacco prevention and control](#), 58% of the total CDC recommended amount.
- Youth cigarette smoking rates have decreased dramatically since the inception of the trust fund: In 1999, 27.9% of Hawai‘i high schoolers smoked cigarettes, compared to 5.3% in 2019.
- Since 2000, [Hawai‘i has saved over \\$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs](#) through significant reductions in smoking among youth, adults, and pregnant women. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai‘i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs.
- There is still work to be done: Hawai‘i is in the midst of a youth vaping epidemic, with [one in three high school students and one in five middle school students report “current use” of e-cigarettes](#).
- We understand the dire fiscal situation the state is in, however tobacco prevention and control funding is critical to saving lives and healthcare costs.
- COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs, making tobacco use especially concerning. Teens and young adults that use e-cigarettes had a [five to seven times greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19](#) than those that did not use e-cigarettes.

- The increased healthcare costs alone, for discontinuing this trust fund mandate that it should remain funded. This is not the time to stop funding tobacco prevention. The state's financial situation will improve but, the life long effects from tobacco will only continue to create dire health consequences.
- Please oppose HB 1296 and save the future lives of Hawaii's youth.
- Thank you,
- Michele Nihipali
- 54-074 A Kam Hwy.
- Hauula, HI 96717

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 5:11:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This way of finding the money is a more fair way.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 10:23:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have strong support for HB1296.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 12:09:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracie Ann M Tjapkes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a concerned community member and health care professional, I request we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

The money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, not tax payers. And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo,

Tracie Ann Tjapkes

To: Hawaii State Legislature – Way and Means Committee
Hearing: Date/Time: Tuesday, 06-Apr-2021 9:30 am
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211 and Videoconference
Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in strongly opposed to HB1296 HD1 SD1 Relating to State Funds

Aloha Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB1296, which seeks repeal the Hawaii Tobacco prevention and control trust fund and transfer the unencumbered balances to the general fund.

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has **reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs.** However, there is still work to be done with the rise in e-cigarette use among youth. Dedicated, consistent funding for tobacco prevention and cessation is needed to reverse this alarming trend and protect public health.

Additionally, this bill would unravel enforcement and compliance elements required by the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and in turn jeopardize the millions of dollars received by the State pursuant to the MSA.

I strongly urge our legislators to oppose this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Judith Ann Armstrong
1717 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 3006
Honolulu, HI 96815

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 3:36:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chien-Wen Tseng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To our representatives,

As a family physician, I strongly oppose HB1296 which would repeal the tobacco prevention and control trust fund. At a time when rates of vaping are skyrocketing amongst our keiki and smoking is a proven risk for poorer COVID-19 infection outcomes, I can't think of why we would cancel a program that has been invaluable to the health of our community through tobacco prevention and cessation. While I am speaking out in opposition as an individual, I have extensive knowledge of the importance tobacco prevention because I serve as a member of the US Preventive Services Task Force which makes our national recommendations on preventive primary care health services including counseling kids to not start and counseling adults to stop smoking. As a family physician at the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, I have also seen the suffering and early deaths of our patients from smoking - all of which could have been prevented. We should be increasing our efforts to help preventing smoking/vaping in our youth who are our future, as well as help our family, neighbors, and friends quit. Please do all you can to oppose any proposed legislation which would jeopardize the funding for tobacco prevention and cessation- In 20 years, I do not want to be taking care of increasing numbers of patients with heart attacks, stroke, and lung cancer. Mahalo. Dr. Chien-Wen Tseng

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

As a private citizen, I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawaii.

To balance tobacco advertising, the Hawaii legislature allocated a portion of the state's settlement dollars to establish the Hawaii State Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The Fund establishes and funds community tobacco prevention and control programs, and the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their nicotine addiction, all to protect the health of our ohana and reduce future healthcare costs.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

The Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund was established in order to sustain tobacco prevention and control programs in perpetuity for virtually all our islands. Let us not forget the Master Settlement Agreement comes from tobacco company profits, NOT taxpayers. The Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund helps the health and finances of our state both immediately and in the future by reducing health care costs. Once the Trust Fund is gone, it cannot be easily replaced or restored.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo,

Helen Barrow

Date: April 4, 2021

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: **Strong Opposition to HB1296 HD1 SD1**, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

As a concerned parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong OPPOSITION to HB1296 HD1 SD1**, which repeals the Tobacco Enforcement Special Fund, Hawai'i Tobacco Settlement Special Fund, and Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

For over 20 years, Hawai'i's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has provided resources to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. Since its inception, we have achieved significant declines in conventional cigarette smoking rates for both adults and youth. Yet, tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Hawai'i, claiming 1,200 lives each year and creating \$336 million in annual healthcare costs.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and shortsighted idea.

Hawai'i has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting the both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawai'i hooking 31% of our high school students and 18% of our middle schoolers on e-cigarettes. For Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island youth these numbers climb to 40% for high school and 30% for middle school students.

To balance tobacco advertising, the Hawai'i legislature allocated a portion of the state's settlement dollars to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The Fund establishes and funds community tobacco prevention and control programs, and a State Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their nicotine addiction, all to protect the health of our community and reduce future healthcare costs.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook a

new generation on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep this money in a dedicated fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from the tobacco companies, not tax payers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose. And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

What do you want your legacy on tobacco to be?

I respectfully ask you to **vote NO on HB1296 HD1 SD1** to protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Kea'au, HI

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 5:35:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 am via Videoconference

As a concerned parent and public health researcher, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296**.

Over the past 20 years, Hawai'i has saved over \$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs through significant reductions in smoking among youth, adults, and pregnant women. Smoking among high school students has declined by over 80 percent and smoking among adults has declined by 26% since 2011. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai'i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs.

Taking away these vital tobacco prevention programs and quit services in the middle of an ever-growing youth vaping epidemic will leave a huge gap in services and will sabotage complementary efforts to reduce youth vaping through flavor bans, tax parity with traditional tobacco, and the regulation of online sales. These services are especially crucial for our most disparate populations, including Filipinos. Filipinos are the second largest population in Hawai'i and have high rates of diabetes (13%), hypertension (28.7%) and respiratory disease (13% adults, 21% children). In a study that I published on tobacco and electronic smoking device use (ESDs) among Filipinos in Hawai'i, we found that 43% of respondents started using ESDs because of the different flavors, 38% were curious about vaping, and 30% viewed vaping as healthier than cigarettes. Smokers reported that they preferred menthol (67%). The study comprised of adults, including those who were under 21 years old (underage) (Corpuz & Dela Cruz, 2019). There is a cause for concern that Filipino youth vape users become adult vape users who have no knowledge of tobacco cessation programs and have no desire to quit. Tobacco-free lifestyles for Filipinos will reduce their risk of coronary heart disease, lung cancer, and other chronic disease which disproportionately impact Filipinos.

Hawai'i has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. However, more work is needed. For instance, culturally relevant smoking prevention and cessation intervention services are particularly important for Filipinos.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Aloha,
May Rose Dela Cruz, DrPH

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 10:57:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

I am in **strong opposition to HB1296**, which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and transfers the balances to the general fund.

My name is Cyd Hoffeld, Health Promotions Manager for the largest community health center on Hawai'i Island. I have worked in the field of health education for over 20 years and have had the privilege of sharing health information with thousands of youth and adults on Hawai'i Island. For almost ten years, the tobacco industry has been targeting our youth with fruit and candy- flavored vaping products which are hooking a new generation of youth on a potential lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Currently, the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has been able to provide much needed funds to many community health centers and community partner tobacco prevention for cessation and treatment programs. This financial resource allows tobacco treatment specialists to work with adults and youth in prevention, cessation counseling and nicotine replacement therapy. These are services that would not exist without strong and consistent funding by the Trust Fund.

The Trust Funds have not only helped individuals quit smoking for their own health but also for the health and well-being of those around them during this pandemic. Keeping Tobacco Prevention and Control funds intact and where it needs to be used in prevention and treatment will not only continue to assist adults in their quit journey but will also help our vulnerable youth in preventing the onset of smoking and vaping. For those youth who become addicted to fruit and candy-flavored vaping produces, the continuation of funding for tobacco cessation and treatment programs will help them as adults to make their quit attempts earlier and quit journey more successful so they can escape lifelong nicotine use.

We need to keep tobacco money from being taken away from its primary purpose. The use of tobacco products and nicotine addiction not only steals lives from individuals and their families, it steals from society. Keeping funds intact can help stop the "steal" by supporting important resources that help save lives and healthcare costs.

The Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Funds create programs, maintain services, collect data, builds organizational capacity, provide counseling and treatment, facilitate networks, and strengthen community partnerships to help youth and adults keep Hawai'i residents healthier today and into our future.

I understand the dire fiscal situation the state is in, however, Congress has committed \$6.1Billion in federal funds to assist with our budget shortfalls.

Please stand with me to **strongly oppose HB1296** which keeps funds where it has been doing its best work in prevention, enforcement, education, counseling, treatment, outreach, and more.

Mahalo nui,

Cyd L. Hoffeld

Health Promotions Manager & Health Educator

CLIFFORD CHANG, MPH

RESIDENCE

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BUSINESS

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Honolulu, HI 96821-1446
Cell phone: (808) 347-8035
Email: <cliffordchangconsulting@yahoo.com>

Date: April 4, 2021
To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1 Relating to State Funds
Hrg: Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 9:30 am; Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

My name is Clifford Chang, testifying today both as the principal in my public health consulting business, Clifford Chang Consulting, and as a private individual with over 40 years of public health experience. I have been professionally involved in tobacco prevention and control for almost ten years and have continued my direct involvement on a voluntary basis for over fifteen years.

i

I am testifying in **strong opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1**, which repeals several special funds, including the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund), and transfer the balances to the general fund.

On March 25, less than 2 weeks ago, the wife of my best friend from high school died after a long, over 10 year struggle against lung cancer caused by smoking that also metastasized to her brain. Davina was only 62 years of age, leaving behind her husband of 35 years, Paul, their two daughters, and her first granddaughter who was born just one month ago. Davina was able see and hold her granddaughter just once before passing away.

Davina started smoking in high school and tried to quit repeatedly throughout her life, cut way too short by the insidious, addictive nicotine in tobacco. Davina was one of the strongest people I know. Despite this, it took her multiple attempts to quit, the pull of the nicotine addiction outweighing her resolve. With professional cessation treatment assistance she was finally able to quit, but not before she developed a malignant carcinoma in her lung which also metastasized to her brain. She underwent multiple surgeries, including a lobectomy and lung removal, numerous bouts of chemotherapy, and numerous clinical trials, before her body succumbed to fluid accumulation in the pleural space of her remaining lung. With the assistance of hospice and palliative care, Davina was able to pass away peacefully and without pain.

My continuing testimony below outlines the various reasons I strongly and firmly believe repealing the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (HTPCTF) is both very short-sighted and a huge mistake. However, the number one reason I strongly request and urge the members of the Finance Committee to vote no on this bill and not pass it out of committee is in honor, recognition and respect for the many, many, many people such as Davina. Hooked on nicotine at an early age as a result of the dishonest multi-million dollar tobacco industry advertising campaigns, unable to quit throughout their lives despite strong resolve and best efforts, finally successful with professional cessation treatment such as those funded by the HTPCTF, only to die way too early as a direct result of their tobacco use. Please do not remove the funding set up by this State Legislature in 1998 to provide funding in perpetuity for Hawai'i's communities for tobacco prevention, cessation and control. The tobacco industry is certainly not stopping their multi-million dollar ad campaigns to hook our kids; the Hawai'i State Legislature should not stop one of Hawai'i's most successful and needed public health programs either. Please, for Davina's sake and countless others like her who will never be able to be part of their grandkids's lives, vote no on this bill.

As the Hawai'i State Legislature knows, in November 1998 the Hawai'i Attorney General, together with 45 other State Attorneys General, reached an accord with four of the largest tobacco companies in America in which they admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, and as a result, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco. From the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), the Hawai'i State Legislature allocated a portion of the payments to establish the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (HTPCTF).

Unfortunately, of the MSA total funding provided to the states since 1998, less than 3% of the MSA and taxes collected on tobacco sales has been spent on what these funds are for—to prevent children and young people from using tobacco products and helping tobacco users quit. In Hawai'i, **only 5.2%** of these tobacco revenues is spent on tobacco prevention and cessation, which is just over half (58%) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation for Hawai'i. Hawai'i is currently spending \$7.9 million a year, which may sound like a lot, but in comparison, the tobacco industry spends \$26.1 million on marketing in Hawai'i - triple the amount Hawai'i spends on prevention and cessation.

Despite this less than ideal level of funding, for over 20 years the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (HTPCTF) has supported the reduction of the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. Since its inception, the state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates.

A 2018 report by the Hawai'i State Department of Health determined that tobacco prevention and control policies and programs have saved the state over \$1 billion in healthcare costs over the last twenty years. This report also found that tobacco prevention and control had a strong return on investment: for every \$1.00 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai'i saved about \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs. These savings were largely achieved through significant reductions in smoking rates among youth, adults, and pregnant women. Between 2009 and 2018, cessation providers funded through the Trust fund have helped approximately 12,000 people quit using tobacco products. But most importantly, while the healthcare costs savings is tremendous, these prevention and cessation programs and activities supported by the HTPCTF have saved thousands of lives and years of life saved.

Even with this progress, the toll of tobacco continues to be substantial, with much work still to be done. Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease, claiming 1,400 lives each year and creating \$526 million in annual healthcare costs in Hawai'i. E-cigarette use among youth has reached epidemic levels and erased decades of progress. Continued investment in tobacco prevention and control is needed to reverse this alarming trend and protect public health.

Clearly the state is facing serious budget deficits as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the long term costs and harms of repealing the Trust Fund and the services it provides will greatly outweigh any short term benefits. And while this bill does appropriate \$5,700,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) for tobacco prevention and control purposes, this in no way is an adequate substitute or action for the repeal of the HTPCTF. The HTPCTF is set up to provide funding on an ongoing long term basis necessary to address the ongoing nature of tobacco use addiction—with tobacco use continuing to be heavily promoted and marketed by the tobacco companies in new and different forms, e.g. e-cigarettes and other vaping products. The current appropriation is only for two years, and realistically it will take the Hawai'i State DOH at least one year to be able to ramp up to be able to administer what is currently being managed effectively and capably by the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF). There is simply no good reason to replace a well-working tobacco prevention and cessation support and community funding program administered by the HCF with funding to the DOH with the inherent constraints and limitations as part of the state bureaucracy.

In summary:

- The Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund's (HTPCTF) purpose is to reduce cigarette

smoking and tobacco use among youth and adults through education, prevention, and helping people quit smoking and tobacco. This includes:

- Prevention work across the state on the dangers of tobacco, including e-cigarettes;
 - Community cessation services on all islands except Ni‘ihau to help smokers quit; and
 - Hawai‘i Tobacco Quitline, which provides free and confidential counseling and support services to help people become tobacco-free.
- The tobacco industry spends \$26.1 million in marketing in Hawai‘i annually, but the state spends only \$7.9 million on tobacco prevention and control, 58% of the total CDC recommended amount.
- Youth cigarette smoking rates have decreased dramatically since the inception of the trust fund: In 1999, 27.9% of Hawai‘i high schoolers smoked cigarettes, compared to 5.3% in 2019.
- Since 2000, Hawai‘i has saved over \$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs through significant reductions in smoking among youth, adults, and pregnant women. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, Hawai‘i saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs.
- There is still work to be done: Hawai‘i is in the midst of a youth vaping epidemic, with one in three high school students and one in five middle school students report “current use” of e-cigarettes.
- The HTPCTF works extremely well and as intended as a stable and perpetual fund source as it is currently set up through the HCF. It is simply not an adequate or effective substitute or replacement to appropriate \$5.7 million to the DOH a year for two years.
- COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs, making tobacco use especially concerning. Teens and young adults that use e-cigarettes had a five to seven times greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19 than those that did not use e-cigarettes.

I respectfully request that you **do not pass HB1296, HD1, SD1** that will dismantle all the hard work done over the past 20 years and that has, and continues to, effectively address the continued massive problem and negative health costs and results, including death, caused by tobacco use. Please do not let your legacy be that the 2021 Hawaii State Legislature dismantled the **HTPCTF that provides a dedicated, stable source of funding for Hawai‘i’s programs and strategies that reduce tobacco use**. I ask that the Committee on Health and the Committee on Higher Education preserve the Hawai‘i Tobacco Prevention and Control Fund and the State commitment to effective tobacco prevention and control.

Thank you very much.

Aloha,



Clifford Chang

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 7:26:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

That money is supposed to save people's lives from tobacco!

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 7:40:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Koga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a concerned parent, educator and Hawaii resident, I am in **strong opposition to HB 1296** which repeals the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. Although the State is facing a tough financial situation, eliminating the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund will result in negatively impacting the health of our communities.

In the 1990's, the Hawaii State legislature wisely allocated a portion of the Tobacco Master Settlement dollars for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. Since this time, the Tobacco Trust Fund has established important tobacco education, prevention and cessation services for communities across our state. The reach of these successful programs is broad and touches all residents regardless of income, insurance status and race.

Through statewide youth tobacco prevention education programs, a significant number of Hawaii students are taught about the harmful effects of smoking and vaping.

Community cessation services and the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline help smokers and vapers to quit and become tobacco-free throughout the islands.

The Tobacco Trust Fund is responsible for funding the vital tobacco programs that have helped our state to dramatically decrease adult and youth cigarette smoking rates, prevented a new generation of smokers, saved Hawaii over \$1 billion dollars in healthcare costs and improved the lives of many individuals who successfully quit their nicotine addiction.

HB 1296 will dismantle the Tobacco Trust Fund, jeopardize decades of progress in tobacco prevention and control and eliminate programs and services established through the Trust Fund at a time when they are most needed. Smoking remains the leading cause of death and disability; and the spotlight is now urgently focused on addressing the youth vaping epidemic in Hawaii. Especially during the CO-VID 19 pandemic, additional services for tobacco users to quit are necessary with many motivated and requesting support to deal with stress and health issues.

Please **oppose HB 1296** to ensure the future health of our communities. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund should not be repealed. Please continue to dedicate funding to maintain a strong tobacco trust fund that has delivered evidence-based

tobacco control programs and services efficiently and effectively for over twenty years. Taking the money out of this dedicated fund would be a costly mistake and cause irreversible damage. Reliance on the general fund and yearly appropriations cannot provide continuity and consistent funding for tobacco control efforts. I urge committee members to **vote no on HB 1296** in order to preserve the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, protect our keiki, save lives and healthcare costs, and to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state.

**TESTIMONY OF BOB TOYOFUKU IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. NO. 1296, HD 1,
SD 1, RELATING TO STATE FUNDS**

DATE: April 6, 2021

To: Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz and Members on the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony as an individual in opposition to HB 1296, HD 1 SD 1, Relating to State Funds.

Although I am the government affairs consultant for the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (CTFH) and for the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), I am testifying personally to focus on the issues and problems with repealing the Tobacco Trust Fund. I have then included some background on how the fund came into existence in 1999. I think it is important for the committee members to be alerted to the basic issues that the repeal will create.

1. Managing the Tobacco Prevention Program: The bill moves the responsibility to administer and manage the tobacco prevention and cessation programs to the Department of Health (DOH) by repealing the Trust Fund statute and appropriating funding, although with no specific amount, to the DOH. It appears that the DOH cannot be as effective as the system provided by the current Trust Fund law: (1) DOH will not be receiving any lump sum funding to rely upon to enter into multi-year contracts; (2) it will also need more funding to increase its staff to manage the programs; (3) it has testified that they are not equipped with the proper infrastructure to manage the programs; (4) DOH will be internally challenged by not being able to manage a competitive bid system through a Request for Proposal (RFP) system, review all of the

applicants, and timely contract for programs on a multi-year basis because of the procurement rules that it must operate under. Currently, there are about 33 grantees and vendors that provide the services such as cessation, youth education and a successful Quitline program under the management of the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) which has been adequately shown by the reports recently transmitted to the chairs of the WAM, Health and Higher Education committees.

Please note that this is not a criticism of the DOH staff but rather my understanding of the current structure to internally manage such a program.

2. Earnings from Investments: The current Trust Fund law and the system allows an entity (currently HCF) to invest funds that are not being used for programs annually thus providing a necessary base of funds in order to pay for future programs **without the need to ask the state for any appropriation from the General Fund.**

Because the principal and/or investment earnings of the Trust Fund must be drawn from each year to supplement the annual budget, without the earnings from investments the source of funding would eventually be depleted. The repeal of the Trust Fund will reduce the ability to have effective programs in the future without these earnings from investments.

3. Accountability: HCF issues reports to the DOH each year on the objective RFP process, the review of services, the evaluation reports by independent evaluators, and the investment reports. Some of these reports were recently transmitted to the chairs as above mentioned. These show the oversight over the Trust Fund activities and use of the monies.

4. Source of Funds: Because the source of the funds come from the tobacco industry to the state through the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and into the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund, the Legislature has the authority and oversight of how the funds are to be allocated. Also, the funds that are allocated to the Trust Fund must be used for tobacco prevention and control purposes in accordance with the law.

5. Positive Program Results: The result of 20 years of Trust Fund programs under the current system has yielded very positive results and that these results should be examined closely by the legislature before the Trust Fund is repealed by this bill.

Lastly, the following is a brief summary of the background and history of the Trust Fund to address the health problems that smoking and tobacco use has caused over the years.

After the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) was completed in November 1998, Hawaii was to receive payments annually. In 1999 the Hawaii Legislature passed SB 1034 CD 1 which created the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund (“Settlement Special Fund”) and a separate Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (“Trust Fund”). Also the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board was established. Further, in 2003, the legislature passed a law which allocated \$350,000 to the office of the Attorney General, in order to enforce the provisions of the MSA to insure that our State would receive the tobacco settlement funds as long as possible.

Initially, the Trust Fund received 25% from the Settlement Special Fund but this was reduced to 12.5% in 2001 and further reduced to 6.5% in 2009. In 2011 the legislature diverted this allocation to the general fund and for 2012 and 2013 the Trust

Fund received no allocation (zero revenue). It then resumed at 6.5% in 2014 and eventually to the current 12.5% in 2015.

As mentioned before, Trust Fund assets must be used exclusively for tobacco prevention and control, HRS 328L-5(c). The current allocation from the Settlement Special Fund as of 2015 is 12.5% and in 2020 this came to \$4.76 million.

The Hawaii Community Foundation (“HCF”) has been the entity from the inception of the law as the entity which oversees the trust fund and also invests the funds received. As mentioned earlier, it also issues Requests for Proposals to award grants to those who apply for these funds for tobacco prevention, cessation and other tobacco related projects. The awards, including the amounts, are approved by the HCF after consultation with DOH.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize these two facts:

- (1) The Trust Fund receives the annual allocation payments from the tobacco companies and not from taxpayer revenue.**
- (2) There was never a need to require the legislature to appropriate funds from the general fund because of the earnings generated from investments.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in an attempt to illustrate the issues and problems that will be the result of a repeal of the Trust Fund. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:23:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tami Whitney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this measure.

Thank you,

Tami Whitney

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hearing: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Danelle Cheng and I am submitting this testimony as an individual and public health professional in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB 1296 which seeks to repeal the Tobacco Trust Fund.

It took 20 years to build the legacy of tobacco policy success and infrastructure of effective statewide programs in tobacco prevention and cessation that the State currently benefits from. I urge legislators to take a measured approach before making a decision, when once made, threatens to dismantle this infrastructure and will not be easy or perhaps even impossible to be undone.

It is clear by the questions asked by legislators during hearings and recently in the news media that questions and misperceptions remain regarding the Trust Fund investment strategy, oversight and grantmaking process.

Micah Kāne, the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Hawai'i Community Foundation in oral testimony to the House Committees on Health and Higher Education on 3/23/21 communicated a willingness to make HCF available off session to work with legislators on providing information on oversight and the value of the Tobacco Trust Fund. I humbly implore you to accept this offer.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions at this time, but as noted in the testimony by the Attorney General to the House Committees on Health and Higher Education on 3/23/21, in order to avoid a Constitutional Challenge the State will not be able to balance this year's budget using funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund as the money cannot be taken before September 1, 2022.

I believe that this time provides an opportunity to obtain the critical information that you need that cannot always be thoroughly communicated during hearing and that is essential to make a well-informed decision.

The overwhelming amount of testimony in opposition to this bill by public health agencies and tobacco prevention and control professionals, the large majority of which are not recipients of Trust Fund dollars, speaks to the concern for future inadvertent negative impacts that may arise should this bill be passed.

Please vote **NO** on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,
Danelle Cheng

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:51:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha Woodward	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a middle school counselor, I am shocked and saddened by how many of our kids are vaping regularly. Please continue to fund tobacco prevention programs, as the research says it works and we owe it to the next generation.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 9:50:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelly Ogata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference



As a concerned community member and health professional, I am submitting testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program, out of a dedicated fund, is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

In the 1990s, when the tobacco companies settled with the states and admitted to lying about the health risks of their products, the Tobacco Master Settlement was established to recover part of the damages for deaths and illness caused by tobacco.

While the companies agreed to pay this money, it hasn't stopped them from continuing to market their addictive, deadly products. Last year alone the tobacco industry spent \$26 million marketing their products in Hawaii.

To balance tobacco advertising, the Hawaii legislature allocated a portion of the state's settlement dollars to establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The

Fund establishes and funds community tobacco prevention and control programs, and a State Tobacco Quitline to support tobacco users attempting to quit their nicotine addiction, all to protect the health of our community and reduce future healthcare costs.

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. This is why I believe it is so important for us to continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each legislative cycle to ask for funding.

To be clear, the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund comes from tobacco companies, **NOT** tax payers.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Please be courageous and vote NO on HB 1296 and protect the Tobacco Trust Fund, our keiki and the health of our community now and for future generations. Please do not let the demise of this Fund be your legacy.

Mahalo,

Shelly Ogata, RN, MPH

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Hrg: April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

As a concerned parent and community member, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1296 HD1 SD1**. My name is Michelle Hashimoto from Pu'unui in Honolulu, 96817. I urge for the preservation of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose to cover and prevent costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

I know our state is facing difficult financial decisions but taking the money from the tobacco prevention program out of a dedicated fund is a poor and short-sighted idea.

Hawaii has worked successfully to prevent our keiki from smoking cigarettes. But, new products like e-cigarettes are constantly being introduced requiring community health organizations to continue fighting both existing and new challenges.

I volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. In addition, I work for the American Cancer Society through our Hope Lodge Hawai'i lodging program.

My grandfather, mother-in-law, and father-in law were chain smokers during a great majority of their lives. We consider ourselves lucky that of the 3 of them, only 2 became ill from a lung disease, most probably because of their smoking habit. My mother-in-law suffered years from COPD and lived with the requirement of being on oxygen with very limited mobility for years before she passed a few years ago. It was horrible to see her spend about a decade prior to her passing in such a way. She was such a wonderful woman of substance who should've lived much longer than she did, same as my father-in-law who succumbed to a sudden heart illness before his passing. He was not in good health for the majority of time that I have known him which is about 30 years.

My kids, Trae and Kai, both graduated from Ma'ema'e Elementary School and Kawanakoa Middle School. My older son graduated from Roosevelt High School and my younger son is a Junior at McKinley High School. While serving as Kawanakoa's PTSA Programs than President for a few years, I heard the incredible hardship of the school's Administration trying to curb smoking and drug use on campus. This was a campus where I knew a great number of the kids and their families, at least those who came from Ma'ema'e Elementary School. I shudder to think that any of them became habitual smokers or users because they did NOT have such

interventions as a committed focus and funding of early education about smoking or using tobacco from our many community partners who are dependent on the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The simple fact is that these programs are EXTREMELY IMPORTANT in the lives of my kids, their classmates, their families, and our community's future.

Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund

For over 20 years, Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has reduced the burden of tobacco in our state, saving both lives and healthcare costs. In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states sued tobacco companies and settled, resulting in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA included payments to the settling states to cover current and future costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. A portion (12.5%) of the settlement funds are allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. The state has achieved significant declines in smoking rates for both adults and youth smoking rates, but with the rise of youth use of electronic smoking devices, there is much work to be done. Keep money collected from the tobacco company's settlement for its intended purpose and fund tobacco prevention control and cessation programs in Hawaii. **Do not use taxpayer dollars for the problems the tobacco companies have created, tobacco settlement money should go towards tobacco prevention programs in the state.**

If we are going to stand a chance at countering the tobacco companies' efforts to hook new generations on nicotine we need a strong prevention program. That is why I believe it is so important that we continue to keep the settlement money in a dedicated trust fund and not require community programs to come back each year to ask for funding.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is a legacy established more than 20 years ago that continues to fulfill its purpose, And, left in place will continue to do so well into the future at no cost to taxpayers.

Health Impact and Costs of Tobacco Use in Hawaii

Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and the use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths nationwide.ⁱ In Hawaii:

- An estimated 1,400 deaths are caused by smoking each year.ⁱⁱ
- Over 24 % of cancer deaths in Hawaii are caused by smoking.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 12.30% of adults and 5.3% of high school students smoke cigarettes.^{iv,v}
- 30.6% of high school students currently use e-cigarettes.

Smoking is estimated to cost Hawaii \$526 million in direct health care costs, including \$141 million in Medicaid costs annually.^{vi} While Hawaii is facing unprecedented public health challenges, it is critical that programs to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults quit are preserved. Please consider the impact and cost it would be defunding tobacco prevention and control programs on the future of Hawaii.

Please vote NO on HB 1296 and protect future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



2533 Stream Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 741-5854

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking. Updated April 28, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/

ⁱⁱ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

ⁱⁱⁱ American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. [State-Specific Smoking-Related Cancer Cases and Deaths, 2017](#). December 2020.

^{iv} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

^v Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

^{vi} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. October 20, 2020. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 11:44:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Luck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

high school students regularly using vape products rose from 5%in 2017 to 15% in 2019.

Date: April 5, 2021

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 1296, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Funds

Aloha! My name is Rojelle Bohol and I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1296.

The purpose of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is to reduce cigarette smoking and tobacco use among youths and adults through education, prevention, and helping people quit smoking and tobacco. The fund has played an important role in improving health. Since the establishment of the trust fund, youth cigarette smoking rates have decreased dramatically. In 1999, 27.9% of Hawai'i high schoolers smoked cigarettes, compared to 5.3% in 2019. This is a huge improvement! Many lives have been saved due to the Trust fund. However, more still needs to be done.

The Trust Fund should be kept because it can help tackle the Youth Vaping Epidemic in Hawai'i. Currently, many youths are using electronic cigarettes or vaping products. Youths are targeted by tobacco industry marketing to convince them to use their products. Studies show that one in three high school students report currently using e-cigarettes; one in five among middle school students.

I am concerned about the Youth Vaping Epidemic because I have a younger brother who is currently in high school. I am afraid he will start smoking or begin to use e-cigarettes since many people his age are beginning to or already use them. Also, I do not want keiki in Hawai'i to start using these products because their health will be affected. The Trust Fund can be used to protect our keiki from smoking and tobacco product use.

Prevention work and services are needed to reduce smoking and tobacco use among youths and adults. If funding is reduced, then rates might go up which will be detrimental to public health and increase healthcare costs. Preventative measures should be considered first, rather than wait for a high number of people to be diagnosed with negative health outcomes related to smoking and tobacco use. Additionally, it is crucial with COVID-19, which primarily attacks the lungs. Research shows that teens and young adults who use e-cigarettes had a five to seven times greater chance of being diagnosed with COVID-19 than those who did not use e-cigarettes. Prevention is crucial to keep people healthier longer and save money in healthcare costs.

I strongly oppose HB 1296 because much more still needs to be done to end the Youth Vaping Epidemic. The Trust Fund has helped reduce cigarette smoking and tobacco use throughout the years. It is still needed to help lower rates, especially among e-cigarette use. Funding is crucial to continue this work and to improve the health of people in Hawai'i.

I ask you to oppose HB 1296 to protect the Tobacco Trust Fund and the health of our communities and keiki.

Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,
Rojelle Bohol
Kaimuki, HI

LATE

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:38:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shani Gacayan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kai Gacayan and I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1296 it will GREATLY affect so many programs and our people who use tobacco products and those who vape. This will have a detrimental affect on the health of our people if the funds used for tobacco education, prevention and cessation are taken away. Please reconsider! We MUST have tobacco cessation programs for our current smokers, tobacco users and those who vape to get them healthier for themselves, their families, communities and our Hawaii state. Again I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1296 as it will prevent our youth and young adults who are currently vaping to have access to tobacco cessation progrmas. Mahalo for your time, Kai Gacayan (mother of 4 children, community member and tobacco treatment specialist on Hawaii island)

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:40:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Vlaera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Jennifer Valera oppose raiding the Tobacco Trust Fund!

As a health care professional, this fund is clearly providing a much needed service to assist our residents from life long illness and poor health outcomes for them and their families-and this fund needs to stay in tack. Providing our communtiy the education and resources to quit using tobacco saves money for our state in the long run. The hospitals, and the rest of our medical professionals already have enough to deal with during this covid pandemic, please do not take this away from our healthcare professionals.

April 5, 2021

LATE

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Honorable senators:

My name is Diane Omura, writing in opposition to HB1296, a bill that would kill decades of progress in tobacco prevention and control efforts. For over 30 years, the decline in smoking rates has been attributed to the combined effort of health educators and prevention programs across the state. However, the introduction of vapes unfortunately has brought us to square one where teen use has reached epidemic levels.

In Hawaii, smoking claims 1,400 lives yearly, as well as creates \$526 million in annual healthcare costs. But just think, that for every dollar spent on tobacco prevention, the state saves \$6.64 in direct healthcare costs. This is all the more reason why we need to retain the funds to continue to make progress, with education.

I strongly oppose HB1296 and asks you for the rejection of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Omura

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 3:39:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB1296 is a good way to get money to help the state since the tobacco trust fund is not being spent wisely. We need this bill passed.

LATE

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 3:57:51 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong Support. Thanks.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 5:31:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM



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

Comments:

HB1296 is a good place to find the money we need. Strongly support this bill.