

SB2691

Measure Title: RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Report Title: Disposable Electronic Smoking Device; Electronic Smoking Device; E-liquid; Reusable Electronic Smoking Device; Excise Tax

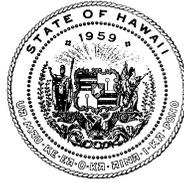
Description: Defines disposable electronic smoking device, electronic smoking device, e-liquid, and reusable electronic smoking device in the State's cigarette tax and tobacco tax law. Imposes an excise tax on an e-liquid sold by a wholesaler or dealer on or after 1/1/2017, whether or not sold at wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon the use by the wholesaler or dealer. Requires any increase in the excise tax rate imposed on cigarettes or little cigars on or after 1/1/2017 to trigger an automatic excise tax increase on e-liquid on or after 1/1/2017. Imposes an excise tax on the wholesale price of disposable electronic smoking devices and reusable electronic smoking devices sold by a wholesaler or dealer on or after January 1, 2017, whether or not sold at wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon the use by the wholesaler or dealer.

Companion: [HB1951](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, HARIMOTO, Gabbard, Tokuda



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2691
RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 6, 2016 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB2691 which proposes to
3 impose an excise tax on electronic smoking devices (ESD) and e-liquids.

4 ESDs are not harmless alternatives to combustible tobacco products as they contain
5 nicotine and low levels of carcinogens.¹ In addition to acute poisoning risks, exposure to
6 nicotine has been shown to harm both maternal and fetal health during pregnancy, and may have
7 a lasting negative impact on adolescent brain development.² Use of ESDs have been associated
8 with such symptoms as airway obstruction, increased diastolic blood pressure, increased heart
9 rate, palpitation, cough, and throat irritation.³ Decreasing the prevalence of nicotine use can
10 significantly benefit public health. Increasing the price through taxation is an effective way to
11 accomplish this goal. Research has shown that increasing the price of tobacco products results in
12 a decrease in initiation by new users and a decrease in the amount of tobacco use by current
13 users.⁴ This is especially true among younger smokers, who are the most price-sensitive
14 consumers. Increasing the tax on ESDs and e-liquid is a strategy to accomplish this important
15 public health outcome.

¹ Cheng T. Chemical evaluation of electronic cigarettes. *Tobacco Control* 2014; 23:11-17

² Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *Raising Cigarette Taxes Reduces Smoking, Especially Among Kids (And the Cigarette Companies Know it)* [www.http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf](http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf)

³ Pisinger C., Dossing M. A systematic review of the health effects of electronic cigarettes. *Presse Med* 2014; 69:248-260

⁴ *ibid*

1 The DOH supports this measure to regulate the price of disposable ESDs and e-liquid
2 through taxation. Currently, there are over 22 states that have introduced bills that would assess
3 an excise tax on ESDs and e-liquids. Besides the District of Columbia and the city of Chicago,
4 there are four states that have already enacted taxes on ESDs or e-liquids: Kansas, Louisiana,
5 Minnesota, and North Carolina.

6 The DOH concurs with the legislature that there should not be a lower-priced tobacco
7 alternative to cigarettes in Hawaii, and supports tax parity on disposable ESDs with cigarettes.

8 Several studies have show that regardless of labeling, e-liquids often contain nicotine.
9 Therefore, the DOH suggests that until the manufacturing and labeling of these products are
10 enforced by the Food and Drug Administration, the tax be applied to all of the e-liquid products
11 and presume that all products contain nicotine unless proven otherwise.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

MARIA E. ZIELINSKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSEPH K. KIM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Health

Date: February 6, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2691 for your consideration.

S.B. 2691 amends the Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Law by amending several definitions in section 245-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), adding several new definitions, and amending the tax under section 245-3, HRS. The cumulative effect of these changes is to expand the Tobacco Tax Law to tax e-cigarettes, e-liquid, and other similar devices and products. S.B. 2691 also requires wholesalers these products to register with the Department and pay annual license fees. It does not similarly expand this requirement to retail permits S.B. 2691 is effective upon approval, though the new taxes it creates are effective January 1, 2017.

This measure's amendment to section 245-3, HRS, creating a new tax on e-liquid in paragraph (14) states the rate shall automatically increase in the future at the same rate of any future increases to the tax on cigarettes or little cigars. The Department recommends that any rate change be done by the Legislature at the same time, when and if, the tax on cigarettes and little cigars is increased. This will prevent any confusion or misunderstanding by taxpayers as to the applicable rate on all tobacco subject to this tax.

The Department also suggests that S.B. 2691 be amended to require retailers of electronic smoking devices apply for retail permits, and that the measure become effective January 1, 2017. As currently written, this measure, upon its effective date, would require wholesalers of electronic smoking devices and e-liquid to immediately register with the Department and acquire wholesale licenses, but would not require them to begin paying any taxes on sales of electronic smoking devices and e-liquid until 2017.

Also, due to the way the retail permit law is worded, retail sellers of electronic smoking devices and e-liquid would not be considered retailers and would not be required to acquire a retail tobacco permit under section 245-2.5, HRS. To prevent potential confusion and to ensure consistency between the requirements to acquire wholesaler licenses and retail permits, the Department recommends amending the retail tobacco permit law to include sellers of electronic smoking devices and e-liquid; and make the date upon which registration is required and the date upon which taxes must first be paid, the same by making the bill effective January 1, 2017.

Regarding the expansion of the tax to include sales of electronic smoking devices and e-liquid, the Department requests that the taxes become effective January 1, 2017, which allows the Department sufficient time to update its forms and instructions.

The Department defers to the Department of Health with respect to the effect S.B. 2691 would have on the State's health and wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
February 6, 2016 at 9:00 am

By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine
Interim Director, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2691 – RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center strongly supports this bill.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 69 institutions in the United States that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides cancer researchers in Hawai'i with greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to many innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

Our passion at the UH Cancer Center is to be a world leader in eliminating cancer through research, education and improved patient care. Because tobacco consumption is a leading preventable cause of cancer, we take all issues related to tobacco in Hawai'i very seriously. Whereas the UH Cancer Center always has supported strong tobacco control measures in Hawai'i, the recent emergence of electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) presents new challenges for tobacco control and tobacco-related legislation.

To address these challenges, UH Cancer Center researchers have been actively involved in conducting studies about cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use among adolescents and young adults in Hawai'i, a vulnerable population for initiation of both cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use.

The UH Cancer Center perspective on electronic smoking devices is therefore informed by data recently obtained from Hawai'i adolescents and young adults who are participants in **original research conducted by our own faculty**. Research conducted in Hawai'i high schools by Thomas Wills, PhD, has confirmed that rates of e-cigarette use by Hawai'i adolescents are at least double the rate of e-cigarette use observed in studies of mainland adolescents. Furthermore, his study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Pediatrics* clarified a reason why e-cigarette use is growing nationally among

teens, as his data suggest that e-cigarettes may be operating to recruit lower-risk adolescents to smoking. And recently Pallav Pokhrel, PhD, and Thaddeus Herzog, PhD, published on the topic of e-cigarettes and motivation to quit smoking. Drs. Pokhrel and Herzog also assessed differences between smokers who used e-cigarettes to quit versus those who used FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy. Additionally, these researchers have published on the effects of e-cigarette marketing on harm perceptions, as well as e-cigarette use expectancies and their impact on e-cigarette use among young adults.

This research is vital to gaining an evidence-based understanding of what drives acceptance of this emerging technology, what users believe regarding its safety, and what the consequences are for adolescents, whose brains are particularly susceptible to nicotine.

As scientific research on electronic smoking devices progresses, we will have a stronger basis to adjust laws according to evidence. At the present time, however, caution is warranted. As others have noted, the FDA currently does not regulate e-cigarettes, and thus the consumer has no assurances regarding e-cigarette ingredients. Further, because of the novelty of e-cigarettes, the long term effects of using these devices are unknown. A further concern, not often discussed, is the potential for electronic smoking devices to be used as drug delivery devices for substances other than nicotine. Moreover, findings by Dr. Wills, published in the journal *Tobacco Control*, show that e-cigarette use among adolescents is a risk factor for initiation of cigarette smoking.

We believe imposing an excise tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, reusable electronic smoking devices, and e-liquid sold by any wholesaler or dealer like the excise tax imposed on the sale of cigarettes creates fairness in the market place. There is serious concern among health professionals that addictive tobacco products other than cigarettes – including snuff, chewing tobacco, loose roll-your-own tobacco, and now electronic smoking devices – are attracting a new generation of tobacco users. While the dangers of smoking are well known, national research also tells us there is no safe form of tobacco use. Taxation also provides a disincentive for e-cigarette use among youth and thus may help to reduce the rate of cigarette smoking.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.



Date: February 5, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for SB2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes**

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Conference Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2691 which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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 nearly 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.

ESDs and e-liquids should be taxed. Most electronic smoking devices (ESDs) contain nicotine, an addictive drug and other toxic chemicals which are inhaled as an aerosol by the user. Nicotine is derived from tobacco and last year, the State Legislature defined ESDs as a tobacco product in Hawaii HRS, Chapter 328J-1. Because ESDs are not subject to current State tobacco tax laws, they are seen as lower-priced tobacco alternatives that can be appealing to the youth. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are concerned that increases in ESD use are driving an uptick in the total number of children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

ESDs have been proven to be harmful. It is important to know the extent of harm that an ESD can bring to users:

- Poisonous – There were 3,067 reported cases of nicotine poisoning related to ESD and liquid nicotine exposures in 2015. Most of these cases involved children under the age of 6ⁱ. There has been one documented case of a child dying from nicotine poisoning.
- Fire Hazard – ESD batteries are known to explode and have been linked to more than 100 firesⁱⁱ, including exploding in a man's mouthⁱⁱⁱ. In 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration banned ESDs from checked luggage due to fire concerns.



- Health Risks – developing evidence show that ESD use restricts lung function^{iv}, is linked to heart disease^v, and leads to respiratory illnesses such as asthma and bronchitis^{vi}. In addition, e-liquid flavors are toxic to lung cells.^{vii} The CDC reported that exposure to nicotine may have a lasting negative impact on adolescent brain development^{viii}.

Youth use of ESDs are at an all-time high in Hawai'i. Data from the Hawai'i Department of Health Youth Tobacco Survey show that ESD use among public high school students increased from 5% in 2011 to 22% (or 1 in 5) in 2014, representing a 344 percent increase in e-cigarette use in just 4 years. While use among Hawaii middle school students increased from 2% in 2011 to 12% (or 1 in 10) in 2014, which is a 542 percent increase. Adult e-cigarette use was 20% in 2014.

Adults and teens are experimenting with e-cigarettes because they are promoted as harmless, fun or as an effective way to quit. Volcano eCigs, which is based in Hawai'i, promotes e-liquids as getting “the same experience from vaping as you did when you were smoking tobacco cigarettes^{ix}” recommending first-time users to start with an 8mg nicotine strength. Further, reusable ESDs are marketed as inexpensive, telling users that they are “getting 2.5 packs worth of puffs for a fraction of the cost of a traditional cigarette. On top of that, they are refillable and reusable meaning you are getting the best bang for your buck..!” These are the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele’s papaya, and pineapple punch. Further, Big Tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business^{xi}.

In 2015, the State Legislature extended its smoke-free policies to include e-cigarettes. In 2015, 22 states introduced legislation to tax e-cigarettes. **The Coalition recommends a tax of 50 cents per milliliter of e-liquid, similar to Chicago’s tax of 55 cents per milliliter. The Coalition also recommends we tax disposable ESDs at the same rate of other tobacco products (currently 70%).** In a poll conducted by Ward Research Inc. for the Coalition in November 2015, 77% of registered Hawai'i users were in support of taxing e-cigarettes at the same rate as cigarettes or other tobacco products.

The Coalition further recommends that a portion of the revenue collected from ESD and e-liquid taxes be dedicated to tobacco prevention and control. The same poll conducted in 2015 found that residents overwhelmingly agree (87%) that it is important for the State to earmark some of the revenue from cigarette and tobacco taxes to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Currently no revenue from tobacco or \$0 from cigarette and OTP taxes is appropriated for tobacco prevention and cessation. When the price of tobacco increases, more people seek help to quit and we need to ensure programs are available and accessible by the public to help them quit.

Increasing taxes have been proven as a powerful strategy in encouraging tobacco users to quit and helping to prevent kids from becoming introduced and addicted to nicotine. I ask that ESDs be taxed at



rates similar to tobacco products because this sends a consistent public health message and helps to address the alarming uptake among our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to pass Senate Bill 2691 out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ American Association of Poison Control Centers. E-cigarettes and liquid nicotine. American Association of Poison Control Centers. Retrieved from <http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/e-cigarettes/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/news/11203884/E-cigarettes-linked-to-more-than-100-fires.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ "Man Suffers Severe Injuries After E-Cigarette Explodes in His Mouth" 15 Feb 2012. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/electric-cigarette-explodes-fla-mans-face/story?id=15645605>

^{iv} Vardavas, C I. et. al. (2012). Short-term pulmonary effects of using an electronic cigarette: impact on respiratory flow resistance, impedance, and exhaled nitric oxide. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22194587>

^v Christensen, J. (2013, December 16). Nicotine in e-cigs, tobacco linked to heart disease. CNN. Retrieved from <http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/16/health/nicotine-e-cigarettes/>

^{vi} Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center. E-cigarettes: Harmful or helpful? Navy Medicine. Retrieved from http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/health-promotion-wellness/tobacco-free-living/Frequent_Questions_about_Electronic_Cigarettes.pdf

^{vii} "E-Cigarette Flavorings Can Be Toxic to Lung Cells" 18 May 2015. <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/e-cigarette-flavorings-can-be-toxic-to-lung-cells-051815>

^{viii} U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "E-cigarette use triples among middle and high school students in just one year." 16 April 2015. <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0416-e-cigarette-use.html>

^{ix} <http://www.volcanoecigs.com/new-to-vaping.html>

^x <http://www.volcanoecigs.com/faq/>

^{xi} "More E-Cigarettes in the Hands of Big Tobacco ." 3 Feb 2014. <http://blogs.wsj.com/corporate-intelligence/2014/02/03/more-e-cigarettes-in-the-hands-of-big-tobacco/>

Date: February 5, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2691, which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine. I serve as the Hawai'i director for the American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific; our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs) usage rates are growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are not FDA approved smoking cessation devices and do not emit harmless water vapor. They are currently unregulated and emit nicotine, ultra-fine particles, and other toxins into the air, causing addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products. Last year, 22 states proposed e-cigarette taxes. I ask that Hawai'i follow suit and continue being a leader in protecting our kids from dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

I can be reached at 808-687-5375 or Kim.Nguyen@lung.org, should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



Kim Nguyen, MSW
Executive Director – Hawai'i
American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Tax on Electronic Smoking Devices

BILL NUMBER: SB 2691; HB 1951 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by BAKER, HARIMOTO, Gabbard, Tokuda; HB by BELATTI, MORIKAWA, RHOADS, Kobayashi

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This is a new tax beginning on 1/1/17 on electronic smoking devices at ___% of the wholesale price and ___ cents per milliliter of e-liquid. The tax on e-liquid includes an escalator clause stating that if the tobacco tax on cigarettes is increased beyond 16 cents per cigarette then this tax is also increased by the same percentage. The increased taxes are having an effect on consumption, which means the tax cannot be expected to produce stable funding. Lawmakers may want to consider direct appropriations to programs now being supported by earmarks from this tax.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 245-1 to add definitions of disposable electronic smoking device, electronic smoking device, e-liquid, and reusable electronic smoking device; amends definitions "dealer", "retailer", "sale" or "sold", "wholesale price", and "wholesaler" to include electronic smoking devices or e-liquid.

Amends HRS section 245-3 to impose an excise tax equal to ___% of the wholesale price of each disposable electronic smoking device sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on and after 1/1/2017; to impose an excise tax equal to ___ cents per milliliter of e-liquid sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on and after 1/1/2017;

Amends HRS section 245-2.5 to increase the annual fee for a retail tobacco permit from \$20 to \$50. Makes other conforming amendments to include sales of electronic smoking devices or e-liquid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.

STAFF COMMENTS: The proposed measure would amend the definition of "cigarette" to include "electronic smoking devices" thereby making them subject to the tobacco tax. Traditional cigarettes have been proven to be a health hazard, but electronic smoking devices have only appeared on the market in 2004. Even though such devices contain nicotine, they do not produce other hazardous substances associated with a traditional cigarette.

Given the fact that there is no tobacco being consumed with these electronic smoking devices, it is questionable why these particular products should be placed under the tobacco tax. They may be substitutes for a tobacco product, but so are other products like nicotine gum. How should these latter products be taxed, if at all? As noted many times before, if the health department believes that products such as cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and other forms of tobacco consumption are bad for the community's health, then those products should be banned

altogether. Apparently, lawmakers do not want to give up the revenues they reap from the heavy taxes imposed on these products.

Digested 2/3/2016

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2692 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 9:32:59 AM

SB2692

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health

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

RE: SB2691 – oppose.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes® is the largest manufacturer and retailer of vapor products and vaping accessories in the State of Hawaii. We currently own and operate 11 locations statewide and employ over 70 full-time workers to support sales of our products not only here in Hawaii, but to all 50 states as well as over 30 International countries. We stand in opposition to SB2691 for the following:

- Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. Nonetheless, **SB2691 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as “Tobacco Products” and erroneously refers to them as “Electronic Smoking Devices”** to bring vapor products into the same regulatory framework as traditional tobacco cigarettes for the purposes of taxation. This will adversely effect the vapor industry in Hawaii resulting in unintended economic and health consequences detailed below.
- SB2691’s justification and purpose section provides that the use of Vapor Products, specifically “E-Liquid”, carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. **However research demonstrates that vapor products have not been shown to have the same detrimental effects of combustible tobacco products. Recent studies have also shown vapor products to be as much as 95% less toxic than traditional Cigarettes.**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/Ecigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf
- In fact, Mitch Zeller, Director of the Center for Tobacco Products at the FDA recently stated:
"If a current smoker, otherwise unable or unwilling to quit, completely substituted all of the combusting cigarettes that they smoked with an electronic cigarette at the individual level, that person would probably be significantly reducing their risk."



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<http://thedianerehmsshow.org/shows/20140121/newhealthriskscigarettesmoking/transcript>

- Also problematic is that SB2691 exempts traditional Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products that contain nicotine even though electronic cigarettes have been shown to be a much more effective tool for helping people quit smoking and have been demonstrated to have a similar risk profile as NRT's.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/add.12623/abstract>

http://m.circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/Suppl_2/A14945.short

- SB2691's justification states that without taxing vapor products, "smokers may be tempted to purchase less expensive products such as e-liquid". This is false. **Virtually all e-cigarette starter kits and bottles of e-liquid are already higher priced in comparison to tobacco cigarettes.** An average reusable electronic cigarette starter kit ranges in price from \$30 to upwards of \$300 depending on the device. Furthermore, a 15ml bottle of e-liquid (the smallest bottle size currently offered) is currently retailed at \$12.99 at all of our locations, which is nearly 33% more costly than a standard pack of cigarettes, yet it provides nearly the same amount of puffs.
- **The tax framework laid out by SB2691 is overly broad by applying it to all components and parts of an e-cig and appears to be unenforceable.** The bill aims to tax all vapor devices including all of their components whether or not they are sold separately "including but not limited to atomizers, coils, drips tips, and tanks". Applying the tax to all associated components for vapor products is inequitable since the tobacco tax does not apply to lighters, rolling papers, pipes and any other smoking tool or accessory used to smoke tobacco that does not even contain tobacco. Furthermore the bill appears internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that any device sold with e-liquid that does not contain nicotine is exempt from the tax altogether. Because the vapor components do not contain nicotine, this means that it is exempt from the tax.
- **Most troubling is the fact that by subjecting vapor products to this proposed tax, the additional costs to consumers will likely result in the state seeing less tax revenue, and even worse, former smokers returning to tobacco use. The tax will result in current vapor users purchasing from online vendors who would not be subject to state taxes. Local manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers would be put at a massive competitive disadvantage and most retail customers would send their money out-of-state effectively lowering the tax revenue already being generated by sales of vapor products here in the state.** We would be unable to compete in other out-of-state and international markets with competitors who are not subjected to the same tax, which would put our local operations in severe jeopardy meaning an immediate loss of jobs and existing



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revenues. This bill would also effectively reduce access to a modified risk product that has been a public health win and would simply prop up and protect the proven deadly tobacco market.

It is our belief that this unjustified regulation and tax will not serve the best interests in the state of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

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

I am submitting personal testimony on SB2691 based on my research with adolescents in Hawaii, which was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health. I am the interim director for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program in the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. The comments presented here are my personal testimony and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Institutes of Health or the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

SB2691 would impose an excise tax on electronic smoking devices.

I support this legislation because our research indicates that use of electronic smoking devices (hereafter, e-cigarettes) is quite prevalent among adolescents in Hawaii. Our publication in the journal Pediatrics reported that 29% of 9th and 10th grade students in six Hawaii high schools have used e-cigarettes at least once and 18% use them regularly. This rate of e-cigarette use by adolescents in Hawaii it is considerably higher than what is found in current studies of adolescents in other areas of the US.

Moreover, our recent publications in the journal Tobacco Control have shown that using e-cigarettes leads to an increased interest in smoking among adolescents, and that adolescent nonsmokers who use e-cigarettes are more likely to start smoking 1 year later. That is, e-cigarette use increases smoking initiation among adolescents. This has public health implications because a factor that increases adolescent smoking will have negative effects on public health. Our research conducted in Hawaii has shown that e-cigarette use increases smoking uptake, and our results have been confirmed by three other studies in different parts of the mainland.

Therefore, our findings indicate that more action is necessary to reduce the rate of e-cigarette use among adolescents. Taxation has previously been shown effective for reducing rates of adolescent cigarette smoking. Thus there is a justification for imposing a tax on e-cigarettes as well as on tobacco cigarettes.

Our study, which followed a sample of 2,300 adolescents over time, would not have been possible without the research infrastructure provided by the UH Cancer Center. Our research is funded by Federal grants that we compete for, hence does not cost the State money, but conducting this research requires the kind of scientific environment that is only available through the Cancer Center through the NCI designation. For these reasons, I support the request that part of the revenue from the new excise tax be allocated to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to help support the infrastructure that has made our research possible.

Our research programs, in addition to providing new knowledge that increases scientific visibility for Hawaii, bring money into the Islands that provides jobs for local citizens--both students and community residents. Supporting the important mission of the UH Cancer Center would help these important activities continue.

I support SB2691 for these reasons.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: brianportal808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:51:34 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha, I am testifying today in **strong opposition** of SB2691. In my opinion putting e-cigarettes, vapor products, and e-liquids in the same category as combustible cigarettes and small cigars is misguided at best. Traditionally taxes on combustible cigarettes are intended to discourage use. However, due to the fact that e-cigarettes are estimated to be 99% less harmful than smoking, discouraging use is counter to the overall goal of reducing the smoking rate. Surveys show that if e-cigarettes are taxed at a rate that causes them to become as, or more, expensive than cigarettes. Up to 65% of users will not quit, they will return to smoking. This will also discourage future users from exploring and making the switch to a product that has been proven to be much less harmful. Overall that will irreparably harm the public health here in our beautiful state.

As a nurse I have seen firsthand the benefits of these products and the increase in overall health of the people that have made the switch to them.

Taxing these products equivalent with traditional cigarettes would be doing a great disservice to your constituents and all the people of Hawaii Nei. Please rethink this strategy and do right by the people you represent. Do not be drawn in by the misinformed and misguided anti tobacco lobby. E-cigarettes are not cigarettes and should not be treated as such. Mahalo for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: jason.park1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 10:43:05 AM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: starjenchan@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:44:52 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Strongly oppose vape tax increase.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: redhotwheels@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 10:11:53 AM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurt Oki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please don't tax devices that help people quit smoking. These taxes will only hurt the poor and cripple small businesses. Implore you to think about what kind of effect these taxes will have.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: wintersnicholas@rocketmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 2:35:33 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: pk.hitest@spamgourmet.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:33:43 AM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: It is inappropriate to regulate ecigarettes as tobacco, since ecigarettes are a safer alternative to smoking tobacco. The policy goals regarding the two are not the same.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: sean@blacklavavape.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 1:19:31 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: The tobacco tax business model no longer can support what it was intended for. So the state's idea is to tax something that doesnt cause cancer. Why?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:27:57 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Stop raising these taxes!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: bubbleheadchad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:55:12 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Wheeling	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: 777dnel@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:37:36 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: Teddykim613@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:42:14 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha, I am testifying today in **strong opposition** of SB2691. In my opinion putting e-cigarettes, vapor products, and e-liquids in the same category as combustible cigarettes and small cigars is misguided at best. Traditionally taxes on combustible cigarettes are intended to discourage use. However, due to the fact that e-cigarettes are estimated to be 99% less harmful than smoking, discouraging use is counter to the overall goal of reducing the smoking rate. Surveys show that if e-cigarettes are taxed at a rate that causes them to become as, or more, expensive than cigarettes. Up to 65% of users will not quit, they will return to smoking. This will also discourage future users from exploring and making the switch to a product that has been proven to be much less harmful. Overall that will irreparably harm the public health here in our beautiful state.

These products are helping people. I am proof. I was a 1½ to 2 pack a day smoker for over 35 years. I was drawn in by cigarettes when I was just 11 years old and tried for many years to get that monkey off my back. It affected my health in many ways, including lowered lung function among others. I tried every way imaginable to quit. Patches, gums, hypnosis, chantix. None of them worked and some had side effects that were much worse than that of the smoking itself. I picked up an e-cigarette from a vapor shop I happened to wander by in Kailua-Kona. After a few hours of using it I knew it would be the thing to keep me off of the cigarettes I knew were killing me. I threw away my cigarettes and never looked back. That was over 2 years ago. Since that time I have lowered my nicotine levels in the e-cigarette by more than 80% and can see a day when there will be no nicotine or e-cigarette use. If the cost had been equivalent to traditional cigarettes, I don't know that it would have happened due to the fact that cigarettes are so much more accessible. I can now run and play sports again without feeling like death is at the door. My lung function has improved 10 fold and I no longer wake up with the nagging cough or chest full of phlegm in the morning. These products saved my life and that of many other people.

Taxing these products equivalent with traditional cigarettes would be doing a great disservice to your constituents and all the people of Hawaii Nei. Please rethink this strategy and do right by the people you represent. Do not be drawn in by the misinformed and misguided anti tobacco lobby. E-cigarettes are not cigarettes and should not be treated as such. Mahalo for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: vinkim@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:28:20 PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Tobacco Cigarettes and Vaping are completely different things. Vaping is a harm reduction method to help quit Tobacco Cigarettes. A tax should not be added to a method that have been helping people quit smoking.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Alvin Wong](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 12:21:52 AM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2691, which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes entered the market only six years ago, yet ESD usage rates are growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products. Last year, 22 states proposed e-cigarette taxes. I ask that Hawai'i follow suit and continue being a leader in protecting our kids from dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Alvin Wong
1163 Hooli Circle
1163 Hooli Circle
Pearl City, HI 96782/1904

From: [Amandalin Rock](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 2:35:09 AM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Amandalin Rock
401 Waiama Way
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Antonia Papica](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:08:06 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

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Mahalo,

Antonia Papica
1702 Kewalo Street #308
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Antonita Villa](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:50:38 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

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Mahalo,

Antonita Villa
75-689 S. Mea Lanakila Pl
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Barbara Nosaka](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:11:01 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Barbara Nosaka
2216 Hoonanea Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Bernie Sakoda](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:17:20 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Bernie Sakoda
3630 Lala Rd
Lihue, HI 96766

From: [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:40:44 AM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,
Bryan Mih, MD MPH FAAP
Pediatrician

Bryan Mih
1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Cheryl Albright](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:59:37 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes entered the market only six years ago, yet ESD usage rates are growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products. Last year, 22 states proposed e-cigarette taxes. I ask that Hawai'i follow suit and continue being a leader in protecting our kids from dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,
Cheryl Albright

Cheryl Albright
2344 Halekoa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Cheryl Reeser](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:14:23 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Cheryl Reeser
51-E Kealaloa Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Christopher La Chica](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:43:37 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,
Christopher La Chica

Christopher La Chica

Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Courtney Voss](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:31:14 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Courtney Voss
850 Richards Street
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Cynthia P Chow](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:17:37 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Cynthia P Chow
46-369 Haiku Road
D-6
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Debbie Apolo](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:25:00 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,
Debbie Apolo, CTTS

Debbie Apolo
95-045 Wiakalani Drive
#G104
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Denise Della](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:26:52 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Denise Della
98-662 Puailima Street
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Erica Meyer](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:15:14 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Erica Meyer

Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Forrest Batz](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:17:33 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Forrest Batz
HC3 Box 4730
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [Jayson O'Donnell](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:45:14 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Jayson O'Donnell
3311 Campbell Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Jennifer Hausler](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:53:45 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Jennifer Hausler
1429 kuloko st
Kuloko
Pearl city, HI 96782

From: [Jessanie Marques](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:42:59 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Jessanie Marques
P.O.Box 82
Pahala, HI 96777

From: [Hau'oli Tomoso](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:30:44 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW
51 Ku'ula Street
Kahului, HI 96732-2906

Hau'oli Tomoso
51 Ku'ula Street
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [John Ishoda](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:17:37 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

John Ishoda
1700 Lanakila Ave., Rm. 104
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Joseph Humphry](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:10:59 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2691, which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes entered the market only six years ago, yet ESD usage rates are growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products. Last year, 22 states proposed e-cigarette taxes. I ask that Hawai'i follow suit and continue being a leader in protecting our kids from dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Joseph Humphry
3579 Nipo Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Joshua Delary](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:40:40 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Joshua Delary
46-257 Haiku Rd
Unit C
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Kanani Kilbey](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:34:14 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Kanani Kilbey
642 Ulukahiki Street
Suite 105
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Kathryn Braun](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:44:11 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Kathryn Braun
625 Iolani Ave #504
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Koa Robinson](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 10:28:06 AM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

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Mahalo,

Koa Robinson
701 Ilalo Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Lani Nagao](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:47:55 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: dangers of e-cigs, Strong Support of SB 2691,

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I work with the McKenna Recovery Center, an addiction treatment clinic with 3 facilities in Hawaii.

Marijuana is often erroneously called the gateway drug, the truth is there is much more evidence for the use of nicotine as the entry into addictive substance use that often leads to the use of both illicit and prescription drug use, and addiction to multiple mood altering substances.

Not only to prevent the growing prevalence of addiction..but also prevent the growth in availability and use of nicotine which is linked with cancer ,

I strongly support SB 2691, which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.Membership Coordinator

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs)/ e- cig use is growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

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Mahalo,

Lani Nagao
2850 Kapena St.
Lihue, HI 96766

From: [Lawrence Denis](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:43:17 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Lawrence Denis
PO Box 385847
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: [Lorrie Ann Santos](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:19:52 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Lorrie Ann Santos
45-415 Lolii Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Maria Moreno - Chow](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 2:19:03 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
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Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Maria Moreno - Chow
548 Uluoa st.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Marie Chavis](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:11:16 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
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Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Marie Chavis

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Mark Zeug](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:24:38 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Mark Zeug
1493 Halekoa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Michael Kellar](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:20:48 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Michael Kellar
435 Haleloa Place, Apt. E
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Michelle Gray](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:17:17 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Michelle Gray
430 Lanipua Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Nicole Kerr](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:25:39 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Nicole Kerr
520 N. Kalaheo
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Nicolette Montizor](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:09:32 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2691, which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes entered the market only six years ago, yet ESD usage rates are growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products. Last year, 22 states proposed e-cigarette taxes. I ask that Hawai'i follow suit and continue being a leader in protecting our kids from dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicolette Montizor
PO Box 1349
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

From: [Nora Usita, RN](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:24:50 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Nora Usita, RN
170 Aikane circle
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Pallav Pokhrel](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 4:25:48 AM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Pallav Pokhrel
701 Illalo St
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:49:08 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Patricia Blair
522 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Patricia Fleck](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:19:30 AM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fleck

Patricia Fleck
77-215 Ho'owaiwai Court
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Ramon Sumibcay](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:40:49 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Ramon Sumibcay
92-1269 Umena St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Raymond Marques](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:44:35 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Raymond Marques
P.O.Box 82
Pahala, HI 96777

From: [Rebecca Schweitzer](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:46:45 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Rebecca Schweitzer
736 Hawaii St.
Biomed C103
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Ronald Kuriki](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:13:07 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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Mahalo,

Ronald Kuriki
1655-C Palolo Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Sam Young](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:32:58 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Sam Young
307 Paani Place
Paia, HI 96779

From: [Shay Chan Hodges](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:30:56 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges
37 Puu Koa Place
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Shilpa Patel](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:22:27 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Shilpa Patel

Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Stephanie Austin](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:22:22 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Stephanie Austin
495 Awalau Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Tami MacAller](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:29:22 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Tami MacAller
1234 testing
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Tina Fujimoto](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:40:48 PM

Date: February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: Strong Support of SB 2691, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2691, which proposes a tax on disposable and reusable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes entered the market only six years ago, yet ESD usage rates are growing at alarming rates. It has surpassed the use of cigarettes, with ESD use among middle and high school students **TRIPLING** in a year's time. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes.

Big tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business. They are using the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to be curbed. ESDs are filled with nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into a carcinogenic aerosol and inhaled by the user. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's April 2015 briefing stated: "It's important that everyone, parents and kids, understand that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah, cigarette, or a cigar." Most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth. These increases are driving an uptick in the total number of our children who are using tobacco products for the first time in a generation.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products. Last year, 22 states proposed e-cigarette taxes. I ask that Hawai'i follow suit and continue being a leader in protecting our kids from dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Tina Fujimoto
677 Ala Moana Blvd Ste 200
Honolulu, HI 96813