



LATE

March 31, 2015

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: HB0940, HD1 Relating to the Regulation of Tobacco Products

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

HPHA is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

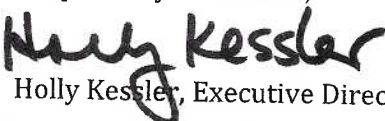
The HPHA supports the passage of HB0940, HD1 which would prohibit the use of electronic smoking devices (ESDs) wherever smoking is prohibited by law.

As indicated in recent local media, youth fascination with ESDs warrant proactive measures to uphold social norms and curb usage before it is too late. According to the Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey, lifetime e-cigarette use among high school students tripled from 5.1 percent in 2011 to 17.6 percent in 2013. Use also quadrupled among middle school students, from 1.8 percent to 7.9 percent, during the same time period. The rate of uptake for these products is alarming and the passage of measures to decrease social acceptability of ESDs is urgently needed.

According to the CDC, nicotine use by youths in any form is unsafe and can harm adolescent brain development. Additionally, the fact that ESDs are found to contain and emit toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, yet remain unregulated in terms of use, manufacturing, and marketing, leaves the public highly vulnerable to its potentially devastating impact.

Holding ESD use to the same regulatory standards as cigarettes is an important means of proactively protecting the public against emerging tobacco products. Regulation, as through HB0940, HD1 updates definitions to fully address the diversity of evolving products, simplifies enforcement of all smoking, and decreases the social acceptability of tobacco use. The HPHA supports this strong policy to protect the health of people in Hawaii as well as future generations.

Respectfully submitted,


Holly Kessler, Executive Director

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www.hawaiipublichealth.org hawaiipublichealth@gmail.com

LATE

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair; and members of the committee

Re: Opposition to HB940

Hearing: CPN, Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 9:30 am

I oppose bill HB940. E-cigarettes and vapor products should not be treated the same as smoking tobacco with regard to indoor use. E-cigarettes and vapor products produce no smoke and are scientifically proven to tremendously reduce risk compared with smoking tobacco. They are also proven to produce little to no risk or toxic exposures to bystanders.

This bill is unnecessary because businesses and organizations both public and private can already choose to ban vaping on their premises -- this bill only eliminates the right to choose to allow it. This will have negative effects on vaping-related businesses, the vaping community, and any other business or organization that wishes to allow its employees and/or customers to use these low-risk products.

Also, the redefinition of the term "tobacco product" will inevitably lead to the complete regulation of e-cigarettes and vapor products as tobacco, which includes an existing 70% tax hike. This would hurt Hawaii consumers, Hawaii businesses and Hawaii workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Scott Lee
kaneohe, hi

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I have a b=BETTER idea...instead of taxing the Vape Community put taxes on junk food...JUNK FOOD is DEFINITELY a killer. Look at how many people have issues from junk food/ poor diets, SHAME on you Statesmen to make FORCED decisions for me and my health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brandy Marcoux
Waipahu HI

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Troy vicari
aiea, hi

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Connor Barnes
Kailua, HI

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Jari stallings
Honolulu hi

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Thomas cole
aiea, hi

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jolene Mateo

March 30, 2015

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for HB 940, HD1, Relating to the Regulation of Tobacco Products

Hrg: Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 9:30 AM, Room 229

Vote YES to include "electronic smoking devices" in the definition of "tobacco product" and "smoke or smoking" in the smoke-free workplace law, and to prohibit the use of electronic smoking devices in the places where smoking is prohibited. ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. Instead, they emit an aerosol that contains nicotine, ultra-fine particles, volatile organic compounds, and other toxins. These are all AIRBORNE particles and gases. So, like cigarettes produce second- and third-hand smoke, e-cigs produce second- and third-hand vapor that can be absorbed by passersby, even many hours later.

In our labs at the University, nicotine is on a short list of chemicals known to be harmful, that require special clearance before we order it or dispose of it. It's incredible that we would allow this stuff to contaminate the air we worked so hard to purify from tobacco smoke!

HB 940 HD1 is the first step to regulating ESDs and protecting employees, customers, and the public from inadvertent exposure to nicotine and other chemicals and poisons. ESDs are not FDA approved smoking cessation devices and should not be used in enclosed or partially enclosed public places. Prohibiting ESD use where smoking is prohibited will protect the public, reduce confusion within society, decrease distractions in the workplace, and maintain the social norm.

I urge you to pass HB 940 HD1 in order to provide protection for the public. Failing to act may set us back decades.

Mahalo

Elizabeth Tam
609 Ahakea St
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Marichu Ilo

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Devin Antonio
Aiea, hi

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James conception
Honolulu, HI

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jannie laurin
alea, hi

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Johnathan Benicta
Mililani

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Joel Apostol
Waipahu HI