

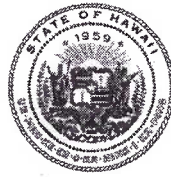
**HB145 HD1
PROPOSED SD1
LATE TESTIMONY**

CPN HEARING 03-23-15

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



MARIA E. ZIELINSKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

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

December 5, 2014

Les Drent
LBD Coffee, LLC
6200 Kawaihau Rd., Unit B
Kapaa, HI 96746

Re: Request for Information Related to Form M-19 Cigarette and Tobacco Products

Dear Mr. Drent:

On September 27, 2014, you requested the following information: "we would like to request the last five years of annual data showing the number of M-19 returns filed for large cigar purchases by Hawaii residents not possessing a wholesale tobacco license. We would also like to request the annual total tax dollars remitted by those not possessing a wholesale tobacco tax license over the same five year time period."

Unfortunately, the data that you have requested relating to purchases by Hawaii residents "...not possessing a wholesale tobacco license" is not readily available. Information from Form M-19 is not easily retrievable as these tax returns are not electronically processed. For that reason, we are unable to fulfill your request for M-19 information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via telephone at 587-1540 or email at mallory.c.fujitani@hawaii.gov

Regards,

Mallory C. Fujitani
Public Information Officer

From: [Nick Pugay](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:54:16 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

I strongly oppose bill HB145 SD1. Using the "gut and replace" method to transform this bill into another is unethical and a circumvention of the proper process for public involvement.

I strongly oppose the classification of e-cigarettes and vapor products as tobacco products. They contain no tobacco, create no smoke, and the current scientific evidence shows that they are a low-risk, effective replacement for tobacco smoking.

I strongly oppose the excise tax provisions in HB145 SD1. Enacting new taxes for no reason and to no benefit is bad policy. Because e-cigarettes reduce risk compared to smoking tobacco, additional taxes imposed on these products is against the interests of public health.

The e-cigarette and vapor industry in Hawaii is an important and growing part of our local economy. Imposing a huge state tax will make our local business uncompetitive with those in other states, which will reduce sales, kill local jobs, and reduce the potential tax collections. Hawaii consumer dollars will flow out of state while fewer out of state consumer dollars will be spent with Hawaii businesses.

Finally, the exemption of large cigars from these taxes is ridiculous and nonsensical. They are literal tobacco products, and there is no logical reason to exempt them while taxing vapor products. E-cigarette and vapor users and businesses face the same damage from this tax proposal as large cigar users and businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nick Pugay

From: [Erik Tincher](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:03:16 PM

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

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Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erik Tincher
Hon, HI 96813

From: [Mike Smith](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:23:26 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Smith
Honolulu, HI

From: [Ryan Tengan](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:38:18 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

I strongly oppose bill HB145 SD1. Using the "gut and replace" method to transform this bill into another is unethical and a circumvention of the proper process for public involvement.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan Tengan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: sf7961@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:38:33 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheri fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: An 80% tax will effect my ability to use ecigs as an alternative to tobacco

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From: [Alapake C.](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:41:15 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

I oppose bill HB145 SD1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alapake C.
Honolulu, HI

From: [Alexys Knutson](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:42:24 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexys Knutson
Hawaii Kai, HI

From: [james](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:49:19 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

james
mililani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: samanthatanginoa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:50:53 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
samantha tanginoa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a consumer I have the right to use these products tax free. I completely oppose paying tax on eLiquid.

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From: [Lorie Matsuoka](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:51:42 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

I strongly oppose bill HB145 SD1. Using the "gut and replace" method to transform this bill into another is unethical and a circumvention of the proper process for public involvement.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lorie Matsuoka
Pearl City

From: [Ericson Estrada](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 12:05:13 AM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ericson Estrada
Ewa beach

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: justin@pcgamerzhawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:59:35 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I Oppose HB 145 due to the inclusion of "products containing nicotine but not tobacco" as this would unfairly include Electronic Vapor Devices. Please do not pass this bill in its current form and exclude any tax increases Electronic Vapor devices as these devices are generally used as a reduced risk alternative for smokers and un-necessary price increases will only prevent more people from quitting smoking by switching to electric vapor devices by making these already expensive alternatives cost prohibitive.

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From: [Tolone Thairathom](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 10:50:40 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tolone Thairathom
Honolulu, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: fiercelyfly72@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 6:38:42 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Braven K. Cabigon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: so the state is saying, "If you want something, then we must pay to buy them one, as well..." That is not taxation, that is extortion!

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From: [Jeanie Akau](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 6:18:31 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeanie Akau
Ewa Beach, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: joshua.groetsch@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 6:02:26 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Groetsch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: E-cigarettes have helped me quit smoking. I think if the tax is imposed I may begin smoking again because of increase in price.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: pmartin1991@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 5:31:14 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patrick martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: this bill is going to drive me to look for supplies from out of state vendors, taking my business out of state.

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From: [Dane Van Epps](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 5:24:07 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dane Van Epps
Honolulu

From: [Te-Kie Pedro](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 5:23:45 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Te-Kie Pedro
Honolulu

From: [Amber H](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 5:13:52 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Amber H

From: [Jesse H](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 5:06:58 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Jesse H

From: [Willie Harris](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:56:22 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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I strongly oppose the classification of e-cigarettes and vapor products as tobacco products. They contain no tobacco, create no smoke, and the current scientific evidence shows that they are a low-risk, effective replacement for tobacco smoking.

I strongly oppose the excise tax provisions in HB145 SD1. Enacting new taxes for no reason and to no benefit is bad policy. Because e-cigarettes reduce risk compared to smoking tobacco, additional taxes imposed on these products is against the interests of public health.

The e-cigarette and vapor industry in Hawaii is an important and growing part of our local economy. Imposing a huge state tax will make our local business uncompetitive with those in other states, which will reduce sales, kill local jobs, and reduce the potential tax collections. Hawaii consumer dollars will flow out of state while fewer out of state consumer dollars will be spent with Hawaii businesses.

Finally, the exemption of large cigars from these taxes is ridiculous and nonsensical. They are literal tobacco products, and there is no logical reason to exempt them while taxing vapor products. E-cigarette and vapor users and businesses face the same damage from this tax proposal as large cigar users and businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Willie Harris
Ewa Beach, HI

From: [Christian](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:25:16 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

I strongly oppose bill HB145 SD1. Using the "gut and replace" method to transform this bill into another is unethical and a circumvention of the proper process for public involvement.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christian

From: [Shanice S.](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:54:12 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

I strongly oppose bill HB145 SD1. Using the "gut and replace" method to transform this bill into another is unethical and a circumvention of the proper process for public involvement.

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Finally, the exemption of large cigars from these taxes is ridiculous and nonsensical. They are literal tobacco products, and there is no logical reason to exempt them while taxing vapor products. E-cigarette and vapor users and businesses face the same damage from this tax proposal as large cigar users and businesses.

This study below proves that e-cigarettes are by far less harmful than regular analog cigarettes.

<http://www.churnmag.com/news/scientists-shocked-after-testing-ecig-vapor-in-the-lab/>

It is not right to consider vaping/e-cigarettes as the same category because it is NOT. It is by far a healthier alternative, and has helped people quit smoking. If this bill is passed, it will NOT help both parties. It will decrease e-cigarette users, and increase the use of cigarettes smokers. If this bill is not passed, it will continue to decrease cigarette smokers, and increase e-cigarette users, and improve a cleaner and healthier environment for the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shanice S.
Kaneohe, HI

From: [Kyle Rienfeld](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:45:47 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kyle Rienfeld
Honolulu

From: [Christine Evey](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:39:56 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christine Evey

From: [Devin Evey](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:36:14 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Devin Evey

From: [phillip solan](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:08:42 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

phillip solan
honolulu

From: [Ramon P](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:04:09 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ramon P

From: [Teri Kamezawa](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 4:00:32 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Teri Kamezawa
Honolulu, HI

From: [Nhrorbenn Minas](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:59:44 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nhrorbenn Minas

From: [Daniel T](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:54:39 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daniel T

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: jmkaupe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 7:49:25 AM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Mano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Electronic cigarettes should not be labeled as a tobacco. I truly don't see how electronic cigarettes has the same affect as a traditional cigarette. When traditional cigarette has 4,000 chemicals in one cigarette and a electronic cigarette has only 4 chemicals. So their for i disagree on a house bill 145 (HB145) that should not be allowed.

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: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: kimaiona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:35:35 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Aiona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This device (e-cig) has helped me stop smoking cigarettes. its been almost 4 years. I hope and pray this law doesn't pass.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: jajeffa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:24:02 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeff adamski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: 80% is way to high. As a previous cigarette smoker, ecigs hav helped me dramatically. I would go back to smoking if the taxes are too high

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: hivoltage96720@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB145 on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:45:13 PM

HB145

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for CPN on Mar 23, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: reading over this bill, causing an 80% tax on the wholesale price of tobacco products is ridiculous. if this bill is passed you will not stop any smoker they will continue to buy these products at ridiculous prices. which will eventually lead to crime! if it gets to the point where they will no longer be able to purchase tobacco products, what makes you think they won't take it. do you really want crime to escalate? that will not be the only problem, numerous business' that service just electronic cigarettes will go out of business. now explain to me why vapor is worse then tar? show me documentation that vapor is worse than conventional cigarettes. giving the funds to cancer research isn't going to find a cure. it just causes more waste of money. no matter what you consume in life the outcome is always the same, death! too much for you is bad in anything, hell you can die from drinking too much water!!! DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!!! IT WILL NOT AID THE STATE OF HAWAII IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM!!!!

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From: [Shaun Arnold](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB145 SD1
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:53:52 PM

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

Re: Opposition to HB145 SD1

Hearing: CPN, Monday, March 23, 2015 10:00 am

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shaun Arnold
Honolulu, HI

From: [Michelle Schiff](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: support for HB 145, HD1, proposed SD1 draft
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 7:17:07 AM

March 20, 2015

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

Re: Strong Support for HB 145, HD1, proposed SD1 Draft, Relating to Taxation

Hrg: March 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 145, HD1, proposed SD1 draft. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to 80% to create parity between cigarettes and OTPs.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Michelle Schiff
1655 Kanapuu Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: support for HB 145, HD1, proposed SD1 draft
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:36:49 PM

March 20, 2015

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

Re: Strong Support for HB 145, HD1, proposed SD1 Draft, Relating to Taxation

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo,
Bryan Mih, MD MPH FAAP
Pediatrician

Bryan Mih
1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822