



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0586, HD2  
RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND E-CIGARETTES ON HAWAII  
HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PREMISES**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 18, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports HB0586, HD2 which  
3 prohibits tobacco or e-cigarette use on Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) premises  
4 and acknowledges HHSC for offering tobacco cessation and education. DOH agrees with the  
5 amendments that clarify the definitions of “electronic smoking device” and “tobacco product”.

6 Tobacco use is primarily a health issue. The scientific findings from the 2006 U.S.  
7 Surgeon General’s Report, “The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco  
8 Smoke,” disclosed that there is no safe level or amount of exposure to secondhand smoke. The  
9 Report further stated that hospitals with tobacco-free policies are particularly effective because  
10 they not only protect patients from secondhand smoke exposure but also project a positive,  
11 healthy image, send a consistent message, and also encourage and support tobacco use cessation  
12 among both patients and staff.

13 The 2014 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publication, “Best Practices for  
14 Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs” reaffirms that “Systems changes within health care  
15 organizations complement interventions in state and community settings by institutionalizing  
16 sustainable approaches that support positive individual behavior change.”

17 HHSC is demonstrating its commitment to providing quality healthcare to the  
18 people of Hawaii and taking tangible steps to prevent tobacco-related diseases. The  
19 proposed measure will prohibit the use of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices  
20 and protect patients, employees, and visitors to the health facilities of the HHSC and will  
21 assist those who smoke through tobacco cessation programs and education.

- 1 The DOH supports this measure and offers assistance with education and signage.
- 2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB586 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:13:01 PM

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**HB586**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Yes

Comments: This bill only spreads ignorance against vaping products by creating the illusion that the legislature banned the product based on some kind of scientific evidence, when it did not. The people lobbying for this bill won't even point out a single major vaping product that's harming people because they know they either don't have that kind of evidence or more likely do have it and it doesn't show the "doom and gloom" that they want.

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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Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 586 HD2**

RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND E-CIGARETTES ON HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PREMISES.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 586 HD2. I, Lisa Shiroma, ASO, of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, am in support of this bill to prohibit the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes on premises of the facilities operated by HHSC and require the corporation to offer tobacco cessation programs to employees.

The vast body of scientific evidence in recent history indisputably establishes the hazardous health effects of direct and second-hand exposure to tobacco products. In a 2005 study conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (hereinafter, "CDC"), the CDC surveyed mortality rates connected with tobacco use in a four year period and concluded that tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of death in the United States. In particular, during the survey period, tobacco use was determined to be responsible for an estimated 438,000 deaths per year, or about one out of every five deaths. Other data provided by the CDC estimates that approximately 8.6 million people in the United States are currently afflicted with serious illnesses attributable to tobacco use.

In addition to the substantial loss of life and debilitating diseases caused by tobacco, tobacco use is also responsible for billions of dollars in healthcare costs and lost productivity. According to data provided by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, tobacco-related illness is annually responsible for approximately \$96 billion in public and private healthcare costs in the United States, including \$30.9 billion in Federal and state Medicaid payments, \$27.4 billion in Federal Medicare payments, and \$9.6 billion in other federal expenditures. The data further indicates that approximately \$97 billion is lost each year in productivity as a result of lives shortened by tobacco-related deaths. In Hawaii alone, data from the CDC provides that annual tobacco-related medical costs totals approximately \$336 million and lost productivity totals approximately \$308 million.

In light of the devastating effects of tobacco use, it is important for HHSC to take all available steps to protect patients, employees and visitors from exposure to tobacco products while they are on HHSC premises. Moreover, given HHSC's status as the fourth largest public health system in the nation and Hawaii's predominant health care provider on the outer islands, HHSC also has a special responsibility to set positive examples for other organizations as well as the local communities it serves. It goes without question that a tobacco-free environment on all of HHSC's premises would set a prime example of positive health practices.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

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With respect to e-cigarettes, preliminary research conducted by the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") suggests that the ingredients contained in many e-cigarette cartridges are not free from harmful substances. Specifically, according to a July 22, 2009 news release, the FDA noted that its Division of Pharmaceutical Analysis examined the ingredients in a small sample of cartridges from two leading brands of e-cigarettes. In one sample, the FDA's analyses detected diethylene glycol, a chemical used in antifreeze that is toxic to humans. In several other samples, the FDA analyses detected carcinogens such as nitrosamines.

More recently, the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") released a report declaring e-cigarettes a health threat in that they emit cancer-causing chemicals and get users hooked on nicotine. While both the FDA and CDPH acknowledged that supplementary testing of e-cigarettes is required to gain a more specific and comprehensive understanding of the long-term detriments of e-cigarettes, the potentially harmful effects of e-cigarettes and nicotine vapor cannot presently be ignored. As such, HHSC must additionally oppose the use of e-cigarettes on the premises of its facilities.

In short, given HHSC's mission of providing and promoting quality healthcare for the people of Hawaii, HHSC is unequivocally in support of HB 586 HD2. If enacted, patients, employees and visitors to HHSC's facilities would be free to enjoy clean, tobacco-free air on all of HHSC's properties. Additionally, employees would be given the opportunity to participate in tobacco cessation programs offered by HHSC to help them overcome their reliance on tobacco products. It is our sincere hope that patients, visitors and other employees would likewise be encouraged to quit tobacco use which, in the long run, would result in a healthier population, diminished health care costs and improved productivity.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of this important measure. I appreciate the Committee's commitment to improving the health of our island communities.

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**HB586**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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