
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that tobacco use is the
2 single most preventable cause of disease, disability, and death
3 in the United States. Tobacco use continues to be a problem in
4 Hawaii, causing approximately one thousand four hundred deaths
5 per year among adults. An estimated twenty-one thousand
6 children in Hawaii currently under the age of eighteen will
7 ultimately die prematurely from smoking. Tobacco use poses a
8 heavy burden on Hawaii's health care system and economy. Each
9 year, smoking costs approximately \$526,000,000 in direct health
10 care expenditures and \$387,300,000 in lost productivity in the
11 State.

12 The legislature further finds that tobacco products are
13 addictive and inherently dangerous, causing many different types
14 of cancer, heart disease, and other serious illnesses. Hawaii
15 has a substantial interest in reducing the number of individuals
16 of all ages who use tobacco products and a particular interest



1 in protecting adolescents from tobacco dependence and the
2 illnesses and premature death associated with tobacco use.

3 The legislature additionally finds that electronic smoking
4 devices, also known as e-cigarettes, are battery-operated
5 products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other
6 chemicals to the user by turning chemicals, including highly
7 addictive nicotine, into an aerosol or vapor that is inhaled by
8 the user. Consumers may choose from varying strengths of
9 e-liquid nicotine as well as liquids consisting of different
10 flavors.

11 The electronic smoking device industry, including the
12 production of e-liquid, is growing rapidly. The Surgeon General
13 first issued a warning in 2016 about the dangers of these
14 products, data has shown historic rise in use by youth and young
15 adults. According to the 2016 report from the Surgeon General,
16 e-cigarette use amongst the nation's youth and young adults has
17 become a major public health concern. The Surgeon General's
18 report noted that e-cigarette use has increased considerably in
19 recent years, growing an astounding nine hundred per cent among
20 high school students from 2011 to 2015. In a 2018 study
21 conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the use of



1 electronic smoking devices among high school seniors increased
2 nationally from 27.8 per cent to 37.3 per cent in a twelve-month
3 period. The increase translates to 1,300,000 more teens using
4 electronic smoking devices in a single year. On December 18,
5 2018, the United States Surgeon General made the unprecedented
6 move of classifying the danger of youth usage of electronic
7 smoking devices as an epidemic.

8 E-cigarette use among youth and young adults is also
9 strongly associated with the use of other tobacco products,
10 including combustible tobacco products. Toxicologists have also
11 warned that e-liquids pose significant risks to public health,
12 particularly to children. According to the Surgeon General's
13 report, if the contents of refill cartridges or bottles are
14 consumed, ingestion of e-liquids containing nicotine can cause
15 acute toxicity and possibly death. The Surgeon General's report
16 also found that there are numerous policies and practices that
17 can be implemented at the state and local levels to address
18 electronic smoking device use among youth and young adults,
19 including preventing access to e-cigarettes by youth,
20 significant increases in tax and price of e-cigarettes, retail
21 licensure, and regulation of e-cigarette marketing.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the rapid growth of
2 the electronic smoking device industry, including retail
3 businesses selling electronic smoking devices or e-liquid,
4 necessitates further regulations to protect consumers, such as
5 requiring retailers of e-liquid to obtain a retail tobacco
6 permit.

7 The legislature notes that the federal Food and Drug
8 Administration recently finalized a rule that expands its
9 regulatory authority to all tobacco products, including
10 electronic smoking devices, cigars, and hookah and pipe tobacco.
11 However, the legislature also notes that there is currently no
12 state tobacco tax attached to e-liquid, even though electronic
13 smoking devices are now regulated by the federal government as
14 tobacco products. Furthermore, tobacco products other than
15 cigarettes are currently taxed at a lower rate than cigarettes,
16 even though their use carries similar health risks. Research
17 has shown that increasing cigarette prices, such as through
18 cigarette taxes, tends to reduce the rate of smoking by adult
19 and youth smokers. However, the legislature is concerned that
20 as the price of cigarettes increases, smokers may purchase less



1 expensive tobacco products, such as electronic smoking devices
2 or e-liquids.

3 Finally, the legislature concludes that there needs to be a
4 tax on e-liquids and electronic smoking devices and taxing these
5 products as other tobacco products is the most equitable way to
6 do so. Imposing a tax on e-liquids and electronic smoking
7 devices will also encourage users of e-liquids to quit, sustain
8 cessation, prevent youth initiation, and reduce consumption
9 among those who continue to use them.

10 The purpose of this Act is to:

11 (1) Establish the offense of unlawful shipment of tobacco
12 products;

13 (2) Include e-liquid and electronic smoking devices within
14 the definition of "tobacco products", as used in the
15 cigarette tax and tobacco tax law, thereby:

16 (A) Subjecting e-liquid and electronic smoking
17 devices to the excise tax on tobacco products;

18 (B) Requiring retailers of tobacco products to obtain
19 a retail tobacco permit to sell, possess, keep,
20 acquire, distribute, or transport tobacco
21 products;



- 1 (C) Prohibiting persons from engaging in the business
- 2 of a wholesaler or dealer of tobacco products
- 3 without first obtaining a license from the
- 4 department of taxation; and
- 5 (D) Applying other requirements of chapter 245,
- 6 Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 7 (3) Increase the license fee for persons engaged as a
- 8 wholesaler or dealer of cigarettes and tobacco
- 9 products;
- 10 (4) Increase the retail tobacco permit fee for retailers
- 11 engaged in the retail sale of cigarettes and tobacco
- 12 products;
- 13 (5) Fund health education and prevention programs about
- 14 the risks and dangers of the use of electronic smoking
- 15 devices for youth; and
- 16 (6) Repeal various statutory provisions relating to
- 17 electronic smoking devices.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
20 and to read as follows:



1 "§245- Unlawful shipment of tobacco products; penalty;
2 reports; liability for unpaid taxes. (a) A person or entity
3 commits the offense of unlawful shipment of tobacco products if
4 the person or entity:

- 5 (1) Is engaged in the business of selling tobacco
6 products; and
- 7 (2) Ships or causes to be shipped any tobacco products to
8 a person or entity in this State that is not a
9 licensee under this chapter.

10 (b) This section shall not apply to the shipment of
11 tobacco products if any of the following conditions is met:

- 12 (1) The tobacco products are exempt from taxes as provided
13 by section 245-3(b); or
- 14 (2) All applicable Hawaii taxes on the tobacco products
15 are paid in accordance with the requirements of this
16 chapter.

17 (c) Unlawful shipment of tobacco products is a class C
18 felony if the person or entity knowingly ships or causes to be
19 shipped tobacco products with a value of \$10,000 or more in
20 violation of subsection (a).



1 (d) Unlawful shipment of tobacco products is a misdemeanor
2 if the person or entity knowingly ships or causes to be shipped
3 tobacco products with a value of less than \$10,000 in violation
4 of subsection (a).

5 (e) For purposes of this section, a person or entity is a
6 licensee if the person or entity's name appears on a list of
7 authorized licensees published by the department.

8 (f) Notwithstanding the existence of other remedies at
9 law, any person or entity that purchases, uses, controls, or
10 possesses any tobacco products for which the applicable taxes
11 imposed under title 14 have not been paid, shall be liable for
12 the applicable taxes, plus any penalty and interest as provided
13 for by law.

14 (g) For the purpose of this section, "value" means the
15 fair market value at the time of the offense."

16 SECTION 3. Section 245-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended as follows:

18 1. By adding three new definitions to be appropriately
19 inserted and to read:

20 "E-liquid" means any liquid or like substance, which may
21 or may not contain nicotine, that is designed or intended to be



1 used in an electronic smoking device, whether or not packaged in
2 a cartridge or other container. "E-liquid" shall not include
3 prescription drugs; medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis
4 products pursuant to chapter 329D; or medical devices used to
5 aerosolize, inhale, or ingest prescription drugs, including
6 manufactured cannabis products manufactured or distributed in
7 accordance with section 329D-10(a).

8 "Electronic smoking device" means any electronic product,
9 or part thereof, that can be used by a person to simulate
10 smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance,
11 intended for human consumption, through inhalation of vapor or
12 aerosol from the product. "Electronic smoking device" includes
13 but is not limited to an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar,
14 electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape
15 pen or related product, and any cartridge or other component
16 part of the device or product.

17 "Smoke" or "smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning,
18 carrying, or possessing any lighted or heated tobacco product,
19 or similar substance intended for human consumption, including
20 the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol
21 or vapor, in any manner or in any form."



1 2. By amending the definition of "tobacco products" to
2 read:

3 "Tobacco products" means [~~tobacco~~]:

4 (1) Tobacco in any form, other than cigarettes or little
5 cigars [~~, that is prepared or intended for consumption~~
6 or for personal use by humans, including large cigars
7 and any substitutes thereof other than cigarettes that
8 bear the semblance thereof, snuff, chewing or
9 smokeless tobacco, and smoking or pipe tobacco.] that
10 is intended for human consumption, or is likely to be
11 consumed whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed,
12 dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by other means;

13 (2) E-liquid; or

14 (3) Electronic smoking devices.

15 "Tobacco products" includes but is not limited to large cigars
16 and any substitutes thereof other than cigarettes that bear the
17 semblance thereof, pipe tobacco, chewing or smokeless tobacco,
18 snuff, snus, e-liquid, electronic smoking devices, any cartridge
19 or other component part of the device or product, and related
20 products."



1 SECTION 4. Section 245-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) The license shall be issued by the department upon
4 application therefor, in such form and manner as shall be
5 required by rule of the department, and the payment of a fee of
6 [~~\$2.50,~~] \$250, and shall be renewable annually on July 1 for the
7 twelve months ending the succeeding June 30."

8 SECTION 5. Section 245-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

10 "(c) The retail tobacco permit shall be issued by the
11 department upon application by the retailer in the form and
12 manner prescribed by the department, and the payment of a fee of
13 [~~\$20-~~] \$50. Permits shall be valid for one year, from December
14 1 to November 30, and renewable annually. Whenever a retail
15 tobacco permit is defaced, destroyed, or lost, or the permittee
16 relocates the permittee's business, the department may issue a
17 duplicate retail tobacco permit to the permittee for a fee of \$5
18 per copy.

19 (d) A separate retail tobacco permit shall be obtained for
20 each place of business owned, controlled, or operated by a
21 retailer. In seeking a retail tobacco permit, the applicant



1 shall specify whether each place of business sells e-liquid or
2 electronic smoking devices. A retailer that owns or controls
3 more than one place of business may submit a single application
4 for more than one retail tobacco permit. Each retail tobacco
5 permit issued shall clearly describe the place of business where
6 the operation of the business is conducted[-] and whether the
7 place of business sells e-liquid or electronic smoking devices."

8 SECTION 6. Section 245-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§245-15 Disposition of revenues.** All moneys collected
11 pursuant to this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury
12 as state realizations to be kept and accounted for as provided
13 by law; provided that, of the moneys collected under the tax
14 imposed pursuant to:

15 (1) Section 245-3(a)(5), after September 30, 2006, and
16 prior to October 1, 2007, 1.0 cent per cigarette shall
17 be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer
18 research special fund, established pursuant to section
19 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for
20 capital expenditures;



- 1 (2) Section 245-3(a)(6), after September 30, 2007, and
2 prior to October 1, 2008:
- 3 (A) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
4 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special
5 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,
6 for research and operating expenses and for
7 capital expenditures;
- 8 (B) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
9 the credit of the trauma system special fund
10 established pursuant to section 321-22.5; and
- 11 (C) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
12 the credit of the emergency medical services
13 special fund established pursuant to section
14 321-234;
- 15 (3) Section 245-3(a)(7), after September 30, 2008, and
16 prior to July 1, 2009:
- 17 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
18 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special
19 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,
20 for research and operating expenses and for
21 capital expenditures;



- 1 (B) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
- 2 credit of the trauma system special fund
- 3 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;
- 4 (C) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
- 5 the credit of the community health centers
- 6 special fund established pursuant to section
- 7 321-1.65; and
- 8 (D) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
- 9 the credit of the emergency medical services
- 10 special fund established pursuant to section
- 11 321-234;
- 12 (4) Section 245-3(a)(8), after June 30, 2009, and prior to
- 13 July 1, 2013:
- 14 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
- 15 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special
- 16 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,
- 17 for research and operating expenses and for
- 18 capital expenditures;
- 19 (B) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
- 20 the credit of the trauma system special fund
- 21 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;



1 (C) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
2 the credit of the community health centers
3 special fund established pursuant to section
4 321-1.65; and

5 (D) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
6 credit of the emergency medical services special
7 fund established pursuant to section 321-234;

8 (5) Section 245-3(a)(11), after June 30, 2013, and prior
9 to July 1, 2015:

10 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
11 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special
12 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,
13 for research and operating expenses and for
14 capital expenditures;

15 (B) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
16 credit of the trauma system special fund
17 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

18 (C) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
19 the credit of the community health centers
20 special fund established pursuant to section
21 321-1.65; and



1 (D) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to
2 the credit of the emergency medical services
3 special fund established pursuant to section
4 321-234; [and]

5 (6) Section 245-3(a)(11), after June 30, 2015, and
6 thereafter:

7 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the
8 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special
9 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,
10 for research and operating expenses and for
11 capital expenditures;

12 (B) 1.125 cents per cigarette, but not more than
13 \$7,400,000 in a fiscal year, shall be deposited
14 to the credit of the trauma system special fund
15 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

16 (C) 1.25 cents per cigarette, but not more than
17 \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, shall be deposited
18 to the credit of the community health centers
19 special fund established pursuant to section
20 321-1.65; and



1 (D) 1.25 cents per cigarette, but not more than
2 \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, shall be deposited
3 to the credit of the emergency medical services
4 special fund established pursuant to section
5 321-234 [-]; and

6 (7) Section 245-3(a)(12), on July 1, 2020, and every
7 July 1 thereafter, \$750,000 shall be deposited to the
8 credit of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control
9 trust fund established pursuant to section 328L-5 to
10 support health education and prevention programs about
11 the risks and danger of the use of electronic smoking
12 devices for youth.

13 The department shall provide an annual accounting of these
14 dispositions to the legislature."

15 SECTION 7. Section 328L-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

17 "(e) The assets of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and
18 control trust fund shall consist of:

- 19 (1) Moneys appropriated under section 328L-2(b)(2);
- 20 (2) Moneys collected pursuant to section 245-15;



1 ~~[-2]~~ (3) Moneys appropriated to the Hawaii tobacco
2 prevention and control trust fund by the state,
3 county, or federal government;

4 ~~[-3]~~ (4) Private contributions of cash or property; and

5 ~~[-4]~~ (5) Income and capital gains earned by the trust
6 fund."

7 SECTION 8. Chapter 28, part XII, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
8 is repealed.

9 SECTION 9. Section 245-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 repealed.

11 ~~["§245-17] Delivery sales. (a) No person shall conduct~~
12 ~~a delivery sale or otherwise ship or transport, or cause to be~~
13 ~~shipped or transported, any electronic smoking device in~~
14 ~~connection with a delivery sale to any person under the age of~~
15 ~~twenty one.~~

16 ~~(b) A person who makes delivery sales shall not accept a~~
17 ~~purchase or order from any person without first obtaining the~~
18 ~~full name, birth date, and address of that person and verifying~~
19 ~~the purchaser's age by:~~

20 ~~(1) An independently operated third party database or~~
21 ~~aggregate of databases that are regularly used by~~



1 ~~government and businesses for the purpose of age and~~
2 ~~identity verification and authentication;~~
3 ~~(2) Receiving a copy of a government issued identification~~
4 ~~card from the purchaser; or~~
5 ~~(3) Requiring age and signature verification in the~~
6 ~~shipment process and upon and before actual delivery.~~
7 ~~(c) The purchaser shall certify their age before~~
8 ~~completing the purchaser's order.~~
9 ~~(d) Any person who violates this section shall be fined~~
10 ~~\$500 for the first offense. Any subsequent offenses shall~~
11 ~~subject the person to a fine of no less than \$500 but no more~~
12 ~~than \$2,000. Any person under twenty one years of age who~~
13 ~~violates this section shall be fined \$10 for the first offense;~~
14 ~~provided that any subsequent offense shall subject the person to~~
15 ~~a fine of \$50, no part of which shall be suspended, or the~~
16 ~~person shall be required to perform no less than forty eight~~
17 ~~hours but no more than seventy two hours of community service~~
18 ~~during hours when the person is not employed or attending~~
19 ~~school.~~
20 ~~(e) The department shall not adopt rules prohibiting~~
21 ~~delivery sales.~~



1 ~~(f) For the purposes of this section:~~
2 ~~"Delivery sale" means any sale of an electronic smoking~~
3 ~~device to a purchaser in the State where either:~~
4 ~~(1) The purchaser submits the order for sale by means of a~~
5 ~~telephonic or other method of voice transmission, the~~
6 ~~mail or any other delivery service, or the internet or~~
7 ~~other online service; or~~
8 ~~(2) The electronic smoking device is delivered by use of~~
9 ~~the mail or any other delivery service.~~

10 ~~The foregoing sales of electronic smoking devices shall~~
11 ~~constitute a delivery sale regardless of whether the seller is~~
12 ~~located within or without the State.~~

13 ~~"Electronic smoking device" means any electronic product~~
14 ~~that can be used to aerosolize and deliver nicotine or other~~
15 ~~substances to the person inhaling from the device, including but~~
16 ~~not limited to an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar,~~
17 ~~electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any cartridge or~~
18 ~~other component of the device or related product."}]~~

19 SECTION 10. This Act does not affect rights and duties
20 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that
21 were begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 11. If any provision of this Act, or the
2 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
3 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
4 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
5 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
6 of this Act are severable.

7 SECTION 12. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.



Report Title:

Unlawful Shipment of Tobacco Products; E-liquid; Electronic Smoking Devices; License Fee; Retail Permit Fee

Description:

Establishes the offense of unlawful shipment of tobacco products. Includes e-liquid and electronic smoking devices within the definition of "tobacco products", as used in the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law. Increases the license fee for persons engaged as a wholesaler or dealer of cigarettes and tobacco products. Increases the retail tobacco permit fee for retailers engaged in the retail sale of cigarettes and tobacco products. Allocates a portion of funds collected from excise taxes on tobacco products to health education and prevention programs about the risks and dangers of the use of electronic smoking devices for youth. Repeals certain provisions of the Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to electronic smoking devices. Effective January 1, 2021. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

