



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HB0896, RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

February 8, 2013
8:30 AM, Rm 329

1 **Department's Position:** Strong Support

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure adds electronic smoking devices to tobacco as products that
4 are unlawful to be sold or furnished to and purchased by persons under eighteen years of age, and
5 further requires the additional listing of electronic smoking devices to sales prohibition signage.

6 Electronic smoking devices have become increasingly prevalent and widely available since their
7 introduction to the U.S. market in 2007. They are advertised as technologically advanced and "healthier
8 alternatives" to tobacco products using youth-relevant appeals such as celebrity endorsements,
9 trendy/fashionable imagery, and fruit, candy and/or alcohol flavors.

10 Electronic smoking devices present a compelling introduction to the sensation of smoking by
11 allowing users, not only to mimic the tactile sensations of smoking, but also actually appear to blow
12 smoke. These devices have the power to promote a physiological addiction to an addictive drug, as well
13 as a psychological habituation to smoking.

1 The limited published research about safety, efficacy, or public health impact of electronic
2 smoking devices raises concerns about the product's lack of regulation, safety/quality assurances, and its
3 appeal to youth. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration asserts that the ready availability of electronic
4 smoking devices presents a serious risk of addicting new users, including children and cautions that such
5 devices may contain ingredients that are not safe. Because there is no regulation or quality control by
6 the manufacturers, the nicotine content in electronic smoking device cartridges often does not match the
7 advertised or labeled content.

8 A number of states have already passed laws restricting sales to minors. California, Colorado,
9 Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Indiana prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to
10 minors. The Hawaii Department of Education has just released a memo classifying the possession
11 and/or use of electronic cigarettes as a contraband offense subject to disciplinary actions.

12 The Department of Health strongly supports passage of this measure to prohibit the sale of these
13 devices and to prevent the deleterious effects on the health and safety of Hawaii's youth.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 7th, 2013

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for HB 896: Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices to Persons under 18 Years of Age.**

Hrg: February 8, 2013 at 8:30am, Room 329

Dear Senators:

My name is Megan Chan and I am a Tobacco Treatment Specialist for the HEALTHY Program located at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. I am in strong support of SB 2819 Relating to Sales of Electronic Cigarettes.

As a professional in the field of smoking cessation, I see patients on a daily basis who are **addicted to nicotine** and **want to stop**. Electronic cigarettes come in various enticing flavors and are freely **marketed, sampled AND sold to our youth**. These electronic devices carry varying levels of nicotine and are not currently regulated by the FDA. **What are we allowing our keiki to smoke?** Prohibiting the sale of electronic smoking devices to minors is another essential step toward protecting the youth of Hawaii.

I strongly urge you to support HB 896 and help us in our prevention effort to limit the sales of electronic smoking devices to persons under the age of 18.

Mahalo for your support of HB 896.

Sincerely,

Megan Chan
Nuuanu, Oahu