



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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By
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HB 2735 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

I am respectfully submitting written testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i regarding House Bill 2735 – Relating to Health – which proposes to amend HRS, Chapter 304A, University of Hawai'i System, by adding a new section prohibiting smoking (including the use of electronic smoking devices, and tobacco use) on all University of Hawai'i premises within the State.

In addition, this bill proposes to also amend HRS, Chapter 89, Collective Bargaining in Public Employment, by adding a new section specifying that the above-referenced smoking and tobacco use prohibitions shall not be subject to collective bargaining.

The University fully supports the goal of this bill to promote positive health practices and protect University of Hawai'i students, employees, and visitors from exposure to smoke and other potentially harmful substances caused by tobacco use. The bill would be aligned with similar programs at universities and colleges across the nation implementing campus-wide bans including electronic smoking devices in order to provide healthy learning and work environments for campus communities.

Studies have been conducted showing that a smoke-free campus is an effective intervention for reducing smoking and tobacco use among college students. Studies have also shown that college students are at risk for initiating social smoking practices which later progress to regular smoking, as well as exposure to secondhand smoke in outdoor areas, student residence halls, campus events, and other sporting and social settings. Prohibitions have been shown to reduce both smoking prevalence and second hand smoke, and increase smoke-free social norms.

Lastly, this bill is consonant with the legislature's smoke-free efforts over the years to reduce health problems by implementing smoking restrictions in and near state facilities including complete ban at K-12 public schools and associated events.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.