



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
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SB 1405 – RELATING TO ELECTRONIC SMOKING PRODUCTS

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center) supports this Bill and proposes consideration of amendment.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 70 institutions in the U.S. that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

The UH Cancer Center is a leader nationally in research focused on tobacco control and tobacco-related cancer prevention. Faculty at the UH Cancer Center have been recognized as international leaders in research into the health effects of e-cigarettes and have been selected as members of National commissions engaged in Federal policy recommendations.

The UH Cancer Center supports SB 1405. However, additional research is needed on the health effects of e-cigarettes. Additional research is also needed to understand how tobacco company marketing influences youth to vape and to determine best approaches to combat this messaging. *Only the UH Cancer Center is positioned to perform this critically important research in the State of Hawai'i.*

We are recommending that SB 1405 be amended to specify that a portion of the revenue generated under SB 1405 be directly allocated to the UH Cancer Center distribution to support tobacco and cancer prevention research efforts that will greatly benefit the people of Hawai'i.

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