



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Monday, February 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

By
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SB 138 – RELATING TO TOBACCO TAXES

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center supports this proposed legislation. The excise tax on cigarettes has led to a reduction in tobacco use, improving the health of the people of Hawai'i, and provided funding for important State of Hawai'i initiatives.

The proposed modification as outlined in SB 138 will have the following beneficial effects:

1. Further reduce use of tobacco products, thereby improving the health of the population, and leading to a reduction in costs incurred by the State of Hawai'i for healthcare of individuals on publicly funded plans;
2. Address the decline in annual revenues, due to less tobacco use, in supporting the cancer research special fund, the trauma system special fund, the community health centers special fund, the emergency medical services special fund and the health systems special fund; and
3. Provide for the establishment of a special account of the state general fund for expenditure to repay medical school loans of graduates of the John A. Burns School of Medicine who practice in medically underserved areas of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this proposed legislation.