



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary

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By

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And

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Chairs Herkes, Karamatsu and members of the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify against HB 2691, related to smoking.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) is opposed to the measure because we believe it erodes one of the legislature's finest accomplishments in the promotion of public health and safety: Hawai'i's comprehensive Smoke-Free Workplaces Law.

Our current law ensures basic protections for workers and the public from exposure to second-hand smoke. This bill would amend the Hawai'i Smoke-Free Workplaces Law to allow smoking in bars and nightclubs. Our state cannot afford to compromise workers and the public's health.

Those who choose to accept the health risks of tobacco use and do so in their own homes or out-of-doors in designated areas would not be impacted if this bill does not

advance. But those who choose NOT to accept the health risks of tobacco use would be significantly impacted were this bill to pass.

Second hand smoke is proven to cause lung cancer and heart disease, and the U.S. Surgeon General in 2006 concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

JABSOM is solidly committed toward tobacco cessation. We emphasize tobacco's dangers in our curriculum and in many programs we sponsor throughout the community to help educate Hawai'i's citizens about the very real dangers of smoking. Our graduates routinely see its terrible effects in the lives of their patients, as they try to manage tobacco-related disease.

The medical school respectfully urges that lawmakers reject HB 2691.