



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

March 28, 2006

**by
Carl-Wilhelm Vogel, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

SB 3262 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Oshiro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3262 SD1, which would provide comprehensive protections from secondhand smoke in the State of Hawai'i.

My name is Carl-Wilhelm Vogel and I am the Director of the UH Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i. I have the pleasure of providing official testimony for the University of Hawai'i which strongly supports SB3262 SD1 with all of its provisions. Passage of this Bill will provide comprehensive protections from secondhand smoke for all who live, work and visit Hawai'i, and it will also have dramatic, positive impact on public health.

Secondhand smoke is not merely an annoyance, it is one of the leading causes of death and disease in Hawai'i. Tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death in both the nation and in Hawai'i. Tobacco use in Hawai'i is responsible for over 1,100 deaths per year, and thousands more become sick. Secondhand smoke is linked to cancer and other chronic diseases.

Secondhand hand smoke is also an economic burden and has a high price tag in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, over \$300 million a year is spent in health care costs related to smoking and secondhand smoke. Over \$200 million a year is lost in worker productivity.

In order to protect faculty, staff, students and visitors from secondhand smoke exposure while on University of Hawai'i campuses, the University of Hawai'i system implemented in January 2003 a new tobacco products policy which makes the University of Hawai'i system a smoke free and tobacco free environment.

Smoke-free work places are not only good for the University of Hawai'i, but for all our citizens' health.

Sincerely yours