

BILL046(23)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 499

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH) Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 13, 2023 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 7

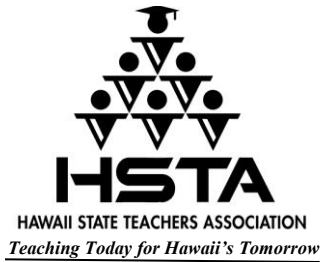
Oppose: 3

I wish to comment: 5

Name: Mitzie Higa	Email: mhiga@hsta.org	Zip: 96819
Representing: Hawaii State Teachers Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 10, 2023 @ 08:49 AM
Name: Rima Khoury	Email: rima@fumari.com	Zip: 92102
Representing: National Hookah Community Association	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 10, 2023 @ 03:40 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>On behalf of the National Hookah Community Association and its members who are Middle Eastern, Persian, Armenian, Indian, Turkish and North African we respectfully request a hookah exemption. Please don't ban the nearly 1,000 year cultural tradition of hookah and protect our right to practice our cultural traditions.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>		
Name: Luke Itomura	Email: litomura27@punahou.edu	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 08:26 AM
Name: Christopher Hudgins	Email: c.hudgins@air.global	Zip: 92003
Representing: National Hookah Community Association	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 08:29 AM
Name: Joshua Ching	Email: joshua.ching@yale.edu	Zip: 96797
Representing: Youth Council of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 10:23 AM
Name: Sarah Haanen	Email: haanen@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: Student Health Advisory Council	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 11:44 AM
Name: Valerie Chang	Email: hicopd@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Hawaii COPD Coalition	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 11:53 AM
Name: Lauralee Dice	Email: kuika143@yahoo.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 12:20 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I support BILL046(23). Flavored tobacco/vaping products have become a problem for many of our youth. I currently work with youth in Kalihi. Many of the youth I serve have used flavored vapes at one time and many continue to use them. Banning flavored tobacco will help to reduce the amount of youth who get lured into using these products and prevent future use.</p> <p>Thank you, Lauralee Dice</p>		

Name: Shelly Ogata	Email: uglowgurl@gmail.com	Zip: 96720
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 12:37 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kiaina and members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health:</p> <p>Mahalo for considering this bill as the youth vaping epidemic continues to ravage through our communities.</p> <p>Please keep the language found in CD1 as the proposed amendments in CD2 include many exemptions. These exemptions become loopholes that enable tobacco companies to continue to sell flavored products to youth and encourage new users. The language in CD1 is appropriate to support the public health of our communities and will stop tobacco companies from targeting our youth.</p> <p>Mahalo again for understanding the importance of ending the sale of flavored tobacco products.</p>		
Name: Peggy Mierzwa	Email: peggy@hiphi.org	Zip: 96734
Representing: Hawaii Public Health Institute	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 12, 2023 @ 12:57 PM
Name: Valerie Smalley	Email: cherub42004@msn.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 13, 2023 @ 09:55 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Housing, Sustainability and Health Committe Members,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued attention to this bill and for your consideration on this measure.</p> <p>While i do understand your intention with CD2 I strongly oppose the changes which would allow for many exemptions.</p> <p>I support the original measure found in CD1 due to the points below.</p> <p>Ending the sale of all flavored tobacco will advance health equity – disparities in tobacco use are due to the tobacco industry's history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and people of color. In Hawai'i, 78% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander smokers use menthol cigarettes (Hawai'i BRFSS, 2008). Mint and menthol-flavored e-cigarettes are one of the most popular flavors among youth.</p> <p>Flavored products are driving this epidemic, where 85% of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products.</p> <p>Big Tobacco knows that in order to have customers for life, they need to addict kids to nicotine when they are young.</p> <p>Flavors must include menthol because it is just as, if not more, harmful than any other flavor in tobacco. Notorious for its ability to mask the harshness of tobacco, menthol makes it easier to start and harder to quit. If our aim is to protect our keiki and reduce the burden of tobacco in our communities, we must include menthol.</p> <p>Mahalo</p> <p>Valerie Smalley</p>		
Name: Elizabeth Ryan-Gill	Email: lizaryangill@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 13, 2023 @ 10:06 AM
Name: Jill Tamashiro	Email: jill.tamashiro@doh.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Department of Health	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Sep 13, 2023 @ 10:27 AM

Name: Clifford Chang	Email: cliffordchangconsulting@yahoo.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Sep 13, 2023 @ 11:18 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health:</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 46 (2023) proposed CD2 - Flavored Tobacco Products and thank you so much for taking up this measure. I am testifying representing myself as a Honolulu resident who has been involved in public health, including tobacco use prevention and cessation, for my entire working career.</p> <p>I am testifying in strong OPPOSITION to the proposed language in CD2 as it introduces may exemptions, including premium cigars, loose leaf tobacco, AND Shisha (hookah). Exemptions such as these become loopholes that enable tobacco companies to continue to sell flavored products to youth and new users to get them hooked for life.</p> <p>I urge the Committee to reject the proposed language in CD2 and return to, and pass out CD1, as previously discussed and agreed to. CD1 has the appropriate language to support the public health of our communities, and to stop tobacco companies from targeting our youth.</p> <p>The wife of my best friend from high school died last year at the way too early age of 62 after a long, prolonged and painful battle with lung cancer, brought on by a lifetime of use of tobacco products. Davina started smoking in high school, drawn in by the tobacco companies portrayal of smoking being "cool". Throughout her life she tried numerous times to quit, with strong support from her family and friends. Despite her being one of the strongest people I know, she was not successful in "staying quit", until after her diagnosis with metastatic lung cancer, by which time it was too late.</p> <p>I urge the Committee to pass out a bill - the CD1 version - that is strong and does what is necessary to end the sale of flavored tobacco products which are now the leading product that are addicting our youth to tobacco use and the subsequent deleterious health effects.</p> <p>Aloha, Clifford Chang, MPH</p>		
Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARES	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 13, 2023 @ 02:28 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>CARES testifies in support.</p>		



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH

RE: BILL 46, CD1 (2023) – RELATING TO FLAVORED VAPING PRODUCTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Weyer and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **strongly supports bill 46, CD1** relating to flavored vaping products. The bill prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products within the City and County of Honolulu. While currently a preemption of the counties regulating the sale of tobacco has not yet been overturned, this ordinance will initiate a trigger ban on flavored tobacco products should Act 206 be overturned or suspended.

Teachers and other students are seeing an increase in the number of students who are vaping on our campuses, not just in our high schools, but our middle schools, and yes, even our elementary schools. Our teachers are confiscating devices, students are being suspended, and unfortunately, these same students are losing learning time, because of it. Teachers are also reporting that students who are vaping are not focused, irritable, and often leave the classroom to go to the bathroom where they are caught vaping, and these students are acting out in some cases. It is concerning. Our students are the victims and are being preyed on by the vaping industry. There are vaping products that look like school supplies (USB drive and a marker), these products are definitely marketed for our youth, along with the candy flavors.

There are extremely high levels of nicotine in these products that are popular with kids, for example, **an Elf Bar has the equivalent amount of nicotine as 590 cigarettes, and you can imagine how these cause serious negative impacts to our students'** education due to the negative impact on memory, focus, cognition, impulse control, mood swings and increased anxiety levels.

In September 2009, the FDA banned flavored cigarettes. The ban was intended to end the sale of tobacco products with chocolate, vanilla, clove and other flavorings that lure children and teenagers into smoking.

According to Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg, commissioner of food and drugs for the FDA from 2009 – 2015 “flavored cigarettes are a gateway for many children and young adults to become regular smokers.” Nevertheless, here we are in 2023 with a proliferation of flavored tobacco in the form of e-liquids luring our children into becoming lifelong and habitual nicotine users. **Unfortunately, this FDA flavor ban did not include vaping products. We can change that with this bill as a state and protect our youth.**

Flavored tobacco products have been proven as the entry point for youth to start smoking. With packaging that looks like it came off the shelf of a candy store, and flavors such as Strawberry Watermelon Bubblegum, Unicorn Milk, and Sour Patch Kids, it is no surprise that 81% of youth who ever used tobacco say they started with a flavored product and 97% of youth who vape say, they only use a flavored product.

Unfortunately, e-cigarettes have evaded the laws to which other tobacco products are subject. The lack of a comprehensive approach has led to the rise of e-cigarette use, undoing decades of progress. **In 2019, 1 in 3 (30.6%) public high school students and nearly 1 in 5 (18%) public middle school students in Hawai‘i reported that they use e-cigarettes.**

Our lawmakers can reverse the youth vaping epidemic by implementing comprehensive policies and programs, including ending the sale of flavored tobacco products. Flavored products are driving youth use. Flavors in tobacco products entice youth, and nicotine keeps them addicted.

In 2020, 8 in 10 youth who use e-cigarettes reported using a flavored product. Of youth e-cigarette users, 85% use flavored products, and fruit, candy/desserts/other sweets, mint, and menthol are reported as the most popular flavors. Ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products will reduce their appeal and protect our children from a lifetime of addiction. Tobacco companies use menthol as a calculated tactic to hook new consumers. Menthol's cooling properties mask the harshness of tobacco. It is marketed to youth and vulnerable groups. Menthol is one of the most popular flavors of youth in Hawai‘i, 78% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who smoke use menthol cigarettes.

Adolescence is a time of crucial brain development; it has been documented that nicotine exposure during adolescence and young adulthood can cause addiction and harm the developing brain. Additionally, nicotine is not the only harmful ingredient in electronic smoking devices; other harmful and potentially harmful ingredients include ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs, flavorants such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead.



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
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Executive Director

- Flavors in tobacco products entice youth, while the nicotine keeps them hooked for life. In 2020, 8 in 10 youth who currently use e-cigarettes reported using a flavored product, up from 7 in 10 in 2019 (National Youth Tobacco Survey).
- Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products will reduce the appeal of these products and protect our keiki from a lifetime of addiction.
- Menthol is just as, if not more harmful than, any other flavored tobacco. Notorious for its ability to mask the harshness of tobacco, menthol makes it easier to start and harder to quit.
- We aim to protect our keiki and reduce the burden of tobacco in our communities, and we must include menthol.
- Ending the sale of flavored tobacco will advance health equity - disparities in tobacco use are due to the tobacco industry's history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and people of color.
- In Hawai'i, 78% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander smokers use menthol cigarettes (Hawai'i BRFSS, 2008).
- Mint and menthol-flavored e-cigarettes are one of the most popular flavors among youth

Lastly, thank you for not adding any fines for our youth, as HSTA opposes fines on our youth, as we feel our students are the victims in this case. It is the predatory tactics of the vaping industry on our youth that need to be regulated and taxed. So please do NOT add any fines or punishment on our youth who are the victims here. We just want to make this stance clear from the start.

Here are some messages from some of our teachers regarding this vaping epidemic and how it is affecting learning at school, despite vaping products constantly being confiscated and students being sent to the principal, and how, they too, want our students protected.

"My son goes to a middle school in the Central O'ahu District, and at his school, the bathrooms were locked after reports of students vaping in them. The effect of that impacted everyone because no one could use them anymore."

"More than the harmful physical effects (shortness of breath, difficulties walking up the stairs, etc.), I see a lot of the negative social effects that vaping has had. When teachers take vapes away and send students to the office, they sometimes find that the vape was actually a parent's, and the parent will get mad at the teacher for confiscating it. Students have gotten into fights over vapes, and it becomes a whole

production of ‘covertly’ passing it to each other. All of this ends up hurting the students academically, because instead of focusing on the classroom material, their whole focus remains on how to get their hands on a vape pen, how to pass it to their friends, how to charge it without getting busted, and how to get their next hit. It’s such a shame that kids are able to get their hands on such addictive products from such a young age, and that they’re being marketed at kids.”

“I’m having to monitor bathrooms more. Students travel to spots that are farther from their classes to vape out of sight in more private bathrooms. They also leave the devices in there for kids from other classes to use, texting one another during class. Their addiction to nicotine is often so established, they want to leave class a few times each period, and while in class they are agitated.”

“Vaping models far too closely drug use behavior. The ‘cool’ factor is leading our kids down the wrong path to higher risk of drug abuse.”

“Because the devices are so small and look like USB flash drives, it is hard to detect if students have them. They also smell like perfume so you don’t know if it’s actually perfume or them using a vape.”

“Kids who are addicted to vaping ask to use the restroom, drink water, or go to their locker every period, and sometimes multiple times during the same period, so they can hit their puff in the hall or in secret. It’s a huge problem that results in missed class time and kids are more and more addicted to nicotine.”

“An honest conversation we have to have is why should I not vape when my family and/or friends do? If it’s so harmful, why do people do it? Additionally, on our campus, students are vaping in the classroom, but teachers don’t know or catch it because they’re unfamiliar with what a vape is. Students are bold, perhaps because vaping is easily done in public spaces—I’ve been to restaurants where people will pull them out.”

“We see suspensions all the time due to vaping, and students miss a lot of school when they’re caught. They vape in class and in all bathrooms, putting the health of others at risk as well.”

“Vaping is becoming more frequent among students from elementary to high school. It’s almost like a dare that our students think they need to try to see who can get away with using it in class without getting caught.”

To reduce the youth vaping epidemic and ensure the long-term health and wellbeing of our keiki, the Hawai’i State Teachers Association requests you **support** this bill.

Luke Itomura
Aiea, Hawaii

August 21, 2023

Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health
Chair Waters
City and County of Honolulu

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL 46

Dear Chair Waters and the Members of the City Council,

My name is Luke Itomura and I am a current freshman at Punahou School. I am testifying to express my strong support for Bill 46. I stand along with countless Hawaii youth, who despise the youth-flavored vaping epidemic. We collectively believe that passing this legislation is an essential step in protecting the health and future of the youth.

At just 13 years old, I was offered a flavored vape by another youth for the first time. This youth smoker used many tactics to peer pressure me into trying it. Their main tactic was telling me it was a delicious Hawaiian Sun flavor; a local favorite. At that moment, I realized how easy it is to fall for the appeal of flavored vapes - 85% of young smokers in the world use flavored tobacco products.¹ My friends in the sixth grade had also mentioned that they were offered flavored vapes. For people as young as twelve, flavors like POG or Hawaiian Sun are an enticing death trap. What starts as innocent curiosity can turn into a lifelong addiction filled with lung cancer, mental illness, heart disease, and stroke. There is no other product on the market that kills 50% of its users.²

Bill 46 will act as a barrier preventing youth from being used by companies like Big Tobacco, who specifically target youth with their marketing in social media, magazines, and stores. Big Tobacco directly stated, "Younger adult smokers are the only source of replacement smokers. If younger adults turn away from smoking, the industry must decline (Big Tobacco, 1984)." Why play with the health of the youth, just so the tobacco industry can thrive? Moreover, a study conducted by Stanford University revealed that prohibiting flavored tobacco products has many advantages, including savings in healthcare expenses, a reduction in our carbon footprint, increased labor productivity, and reduced consumption of scarce physical resources.³ 76% of Hawaii registered voters support this cause, justifying that this is a highly wanted policy.⁴

I passionately request the City Council members to support Bill 46, be agents of positive change, and to stand on a side of health, compassion, and a brighter future for our youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Luke Itomura

References

1. "More than 2.5 Million Youth Reported E-Cigarette Use in 2022." CDC, 6 Oct. 2022, www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p1007-e-cigarette-use.html#:~:text=Flavored%20E%2Dcigarettes%3A%20Among%20youth,middle%20school%20students%20reporting%20use. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.
2. World Health Organization. "Tobacco." World Health Organization, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco#:~:text=Key%20facts,exposed%20to%20second%2Dhand%20smoke. Accessed 21 Aug. 2023.
3. "Why ban the sale of cigarettes? The case for abolition." BMJ Journals, tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/22/suppl_1/i27. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.
4. Ward Research. www.wardresearch.com/about-ward-research. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.



Preserving Hookah Culture & Protecting Hookah Tradition across the USA

September 13, 2023

The National Hookah Community Association (NHCA) brings together, and serves as the voice of, hookah producers, distributors, sellers, hookah lounge owners, consumers, and community members who support the preservation of hookah's cultural traditions. We thank you for recognizing the cultural significance of hookah to minority and immigrant populations and exempting it from the proposed flavored tobacco ban in Bill 46. Hookah is not only an important practice for many immigrant communities; it also ranks among the lowest tobacco categories to be used by youth. Honolulu County will be joining California and many other state and local governments including Colorado, Columbus, Denver, San Diego, San Jose, Los Angeles, and others in exempting hookah from the flavored tobacco ban bill.

In order to further protect public health, we request a change to the definition of "Shisha Tobacco Product" as proposed in CD2. The last sentence in this definition excludes electronic devices. As has been the case for hundreds of years, charcoal (made from coconut) is used as a heat source for smoking hookah tobacco. Although the charcoal does not come in contact with or ignite the hookah tobacco itself, there are some emissions that are inhaled during the smoking process. New technologies are coming on the market using an electronic heat source that replaces the charcoal and eliminates any emissions associated with it. The current language could prohibit such technologies and require individuals to continue using charcoal.

We recognize the concern with unscrupulous manufacturers or retailers selling vape products that are disguised as hookah. We support efforts to prevent such a loophole. That is why the inclusion of the definition for the hookah itself is important to include in Bill 46 to prohibit items electronic devices that use e-liquid. Hookahs do not use e-liquid, and any device that does is not a hookah. Language in several other provisions elsewhere in the bill already prevent flavored "e-hookahs," vape products or e-liquid so our proposed change would not create an exemption for vaping. Our proposed change would only serve to allow technology that applies only to how hookah is heated and does not allow for e-liquid to be consumed in hookah. For these reasons, we request that the last sentence in the definition be deleted.

Shisha Tobacco Product. A tobacco product smoked or intended to be smoked in a hookah. The term includes, and may be referred to as, hookah tobacco, waterpipe tobacco, maassel, narghile, and argileh. ~~The term does not include any electronic devices, such as an electronic hookah, electronic cigarette, or electronic tobacco product.~~

Hookah is a small category in the tobacco space, making up only roughly 0.005% of nicotine product sales. However, hookah is an important cultural practice to many and one that has existed for centuries, originating in the Middle East and India. Today, a broad cross-section of immigrants in the U.S. from around the world enjoy hookah at home and in lounges as a centerpiece for cultural, business, and social gatherings. Hookah is widely used by Middle Eastern, Armenian, Turkish, East African, Indian, Persian, Indonesian, and other minority immigrant citizens. Hookah lounges across the country have come to serve as safe gathering places for many diverse ethnic and religious communities. Despite the importance of this social practice and tradition, NHCA members continue to find that many policymakers are often unfamiliar with hookah, its practice, and its community.



Preserving Hookah Culture & Protecting Hookah Tradition across the USA

NHCA fully supports efforts to eliminate youth access and usage of tobacco products, including hookah. Hookah is unlikely to be used or consumed by youth for many reasons. Hookah water pipes are expensive, several feet tall, not easily concealed, and the setup for use is a lengthy process. Lounges that offer hookah are restricted to of-age customers, preventing teens from accessing the product. Recent research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that just 1% of middle and high school students used hookah in the past 30 days, ten times less than the number of teens who vape.

Shisha, the product used in hookah, is a combination of tobacco and a sugar substance such as honey or molasses, and the total product is only comprised of approximately 15% tobacco. As has been the practice for hundreds of years, hookah is, by nature, a flavored product.

We thank you for supporting communities that have long practiced hookah as part of their heritage and its exemption from the flavored tobacco ban.

National Hookah Community Association



To Chair Matt Weyer, Vice Chair Esther Kiaʻāina, and members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health.

On behalf of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i's (CTFH) Youth Council, we are **providing comments on Bill 46. While we continue to support the intent of this bill, we oppose the added exemptions and urge a return to the language of CD1.** By providing exceptions to hookah, loose leaf tobacco, and premium cigars, the added language provides numerous loopholes for the tobacco industry to exploit in continuing to profit off the addiction of marginalized populations through flavors. A comprehensive ban on flavored tobacco products provides the most equitable and effective strategy to begin combatting the youth vaping epidemic in Honolulu today.

The CTFH Youth Council is a nationally-recognized group of youth leaders fighting to envision and create a Hawai'i, centered on uplifting community public health, beyond the reaches of Big Tobacco. Our council comprises over 80 middle, high school, and college students, with representation from across all of Hawai'i's counties.

Hawai'i is facing a youth vaping epidemic. Across the U.S., Hawai'i high school and middle school students have disproportionately high use rates of e-cigarette products. Containing toxic chemicals like nicotine and formaldehyde, these products have long-term health impacts, significantly harming the developing brain, altering nerve cell functioning, and exposing users to acute nicotine poisoning. Without necessary policy action, over 21,000 Hawai'i youth alive today will die from tobacco-related illness if smoking rates don't change.

Beyond numbers, countless youth from across Hawai'i have chronicled their experiences with tobacco—whether turning to these products for comfort when they have no support system to confide in, witnessing the toll it takes on their family and friends through generations of addiction, or struggling to overcome the painful withdrawals and cravings of addiction themselves.

Central to the youth vaping epidemic is an industry with a troubling history in our island home. From exploiting Native Hawaiian labor on tobacco plantations to bastardizing the image of sexualized “hula girls” on cigarette advertisements, Big Tobacco has capitalized on Hawai‘i’s unique culture and legacy of colonialism to turn a profit off the backs of the most vulnerable. Of those groups, youth have often been the most targeted, in Hawai‘i and beyond. For many, commercial tobacco use has manifested into a coping mechanism, creating a temporary sense of relaxation to deal with struggles like anxiety, body dysmorphia, and even intergenerational trauma, increasing dependence on the device while preserving the underlying symptoms—making e-cigarettes a deadly tool for profit in a worsening crisis of youth mental health. Today, consistent with the countless stories of Hawai‘i youth fighting nicotine addiction or watching their friends and family do so, Big Tobacco is exploiting our people, our culture, and our vulnerabilities through the use of flavored tobacco products.

Aloha Sun Juice, Lilikoi Lychee, Pass-O-Guava Nectar, Luau Punch, POG, and Pineapple Orange are just a few of the more than 15,500 e-cigarette flavors—often designed specifically to entice local palates—lining store shelves. It comes as no surprise, then, that 81% of youth who ever used tobacco started with a flavored product, and 97% of youth who vape currently use a flavored product. Menthol in particular, one of the most popular flavors among Hawai‘i youth, uses added chemicals to create a cooling sensation that, coupled with its minty flavor, makes it easier to start vaping and harder to quit. The industry, which considers Hawai‘i a “Menthol State,” has invested heavily in promoting these products across the islands, driving public health disparities in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, with 78% of smokers from these communities using menthol cigarettes. Flavors, then, are the pinnacle of Big Tobacco’s modern design for Hawai‘i—creating devices that specifically market to and addict the communities whose systemic vulnerabilities are a direct consequence of the history of exploitation they participate in.

The industry, however, won’t go down without a fight. Spending \$26 million annually on marketing and hundreds of thousands on lobbying in Hawai‘i alone, the tobacco industry’s relentless presence in daily life on the islands isn’t an accident—it’s intentional. It’s the primary reason that the Honolulu City Council is presently prevented from regulating the sale of tobacco in this county, a consequence of a 2018 gut-and-replace law passed behind closed doors. Big Tobacco has not only attempted to assert control over our people, our culture, and our vulnerabilities but has actively come into our home and dictated the duties and functions of our own government.

Possession, use, and purchase, or PUP laws, institute monetary penalties on youth for tobacco use and are a common policy proposal the tobacco industry uses to escape accountability for their aggressive and manipulative marketing practices. These laws work to punish and stigmatize children and

significantly detract from more effective tobacco control efforts. With some proposals pushing upwards of \$200 fines, the financial burden of PUP laws would inevitably pass onto the families of youth forced to pay them—and given that Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and African American youth are disproportionately impacted by e-cigarette use, instituting these policies would double down on the failed, Reagan-era War on Drugs policies that drive economic disparities along racial lines while protecting the profits of so-called “law-abiding” businesses. Addiction is not an issue to punish, nor one to “fix”. It’s a consequence of an unregulated industry running rampant in communities that are already hurting the most.

Banning the sale of *all* flavored tobacco products at the county level would work to end this deadly cycle of addiction, manipulation, and exploitation. Despite the fact that the State preempts the County’s authority in regulating tobacco sales, the passage of Bill 46 would be an unwavering expression of defiance against the financial influence of the tobacco industry and a signal to other elected officials that the people of Honolulu are ready to fight the youth vaping epidemic now.

We strongly urge that the original language of Bill 46 be restored and passed. It’s time to put people over the profits of Big Tobacco. It’s time to protect our keiki.

Date: September 12, 2023

To: Chair Waters
Members of City Council

From: Members of the University of Hawaii Student Health Advisory Council

Re: Support for Bill 46-23, Flavored Tobacco Products

Hearing: Wednesday, September 13 at 2:30PM at City Council Chamber

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of Bill 46-23 which would prohibit the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco products including menthol. In addition, we oppose the proposed language in the CD2, as it has many exemptions, including those regarding premium cigars, loose leaf tobacco, and Shisha products. These exemptions become loopholes that enable tobacco companies to continue to sell flavored products to youth and new users to get them hooked for life.

The Student Health Advisory Council has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of health policies and tobacco education on the UH System campuses. We remain deeply committed to the mission of reducing the use of all tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, among adolescents and young adults.

Electronic cigarettes are now the most commonly used form of tobacco among young people in the United States, surpassing conventional tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and hookahs. The sale of candy-like flavored tobacco products entices young people to start using these harmful products which can lead to addiction and cause damage to the developing brain. Menthol should also be banned as it masks the harmfulness of tobacco and is one of the most popular flavors among youth. Flavored tobacco products also increase individuals' risk for dual use of vape products and combustible cigarettes. Banning the sale of flavored and menthol tobacco products will help with the health issues disproportionately affecting those in lower socioeconomic status and people of color.

The banning of flavored tobacco products as well as providing tobacco education and cessation programs without monetary penalties for youth, is imperative if we are committed to protecting the health and well-being of our communities. Therefore, we urge you to support this measure and prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products including menthol in the City and County of Honolulu.

Mahalo,

Student Health Advisory Council



Hawaii COPD Coalition

P O Box 240053

Honolulu, HI 96824

hicopd@gmail.com

(808)699-9839

September 12, 2023

Members of the Honolulu City Council Housing Sustainability and Health Committee

RE: Strong OPPOSITION to Bill 046, CD2 Relating to Tobacco Products--Flavored Tobacco Products

Dear Committee Members,

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children and adults of Honolulu and our entire state as well. **Please vote AGAINST the proposed language of CD2, as it has many EXEMPTIONS, including premium cigars, loose leave tobacco AND shisha (hookah). Exemptions create LOOPHOLES that do not protect Hawaii's people**, especially its vulnerable children and the adults who will be seduced by these flavors, as soon as the legislature ends its restrictive pre-emption ban on tobacco regulation. **We strongly recommend the language found in CD1!**

I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition and serve over 45,000 Hawaii adults diagnosed with COPD in Hawaii (with an estimated equal number still undiagnosed). Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD is an umbrella of diseases which include emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma. Since 2007, I have worked in Hawaii, nationally and internationally with countless people who have had their lungs and lives horribly affected by tobacco and nicotine. Many of these people have become disabled and unable to perform jobs and hobbies they enjoyed, spending a lot more time and resources with healthcare providers and requiring support from society than they or any of us would like.

Sadly, our state is in the middle of a youth vaping epidemic! In Hawai'i one in three high school students and on in five middle school students reported "current use of e-cigarettes according to the Hawai'i YRBSS 2019!

Flavors in tobacco products entice youth, while the nicotine keeps them hooked for life. **In 2020, 8 in 10 youth who currently use e-cigarettes reported using a flavored product, up from 7 in 10 in 2019 (National Youth Tobacco Survey).** Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products will reduce the appeal of these products and protect our keiki from a lifetime of addiction.

Menthol is just as, if not more, harmful than any other flavor in tobacco. Notorious for its ability to mask the harshness of tobacco, menthol makes it easier to start and harder to quit.

If our aim is to protect our keiki and reduce the burden of tobacco in our communities, we must include menthol.

Ending the sale of all flavored tobacco will advance **health equity** – disparities in tobacco use are due to the tobacco industry's history of marketing menthol cigarettes to youth and people of color. ***In Hawai'i, 78% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander smokers use menthol cigarettes (Hawai'i BRFSS, 2008). Mint and menthol flavored e-cigarettes are one of the most popular flavors among youth.***

At the local level, over 360 localities restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products!

While we are grateful that this legislature has been the first in the nation to pass legislation banning the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to people under 21 in Hawaii, the high number of minors who are currently using e-cigarettes shows that children continue to use these dangerous devices! This is extremely concerning since nicotine is known to be a HIGHLY addictive drug and impacts the developing brain. Pediatricians have reported the brain continues to develop and grow until the young adult is 26 years old! Studies have shown that using e-smoking devices result multiple harms to the lungs, as detailed on the John Hopkins website, [What Does Vaping Do to Your Lungs? | Johns Hopkins Medicine](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/what-does-vaping-do-to-your-lungs) at www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/what-does-vaping-do-to-your-lungs.

The March 2021 Tobacconomics Fact Sheet estimates that more than 3,000 smokers (5.6% of menthol smokers) would quit when flavored and menthol products are banned. Additionally, the fact sheet estimates 700 premature smoking-caused deaths will be avoided. Additionally, fewer youth will be initiated into smoking because without menthol and other flavors, nicotine is harsh. Preventing kids in Hawaii from becoming addicted smokers would secure millions of dollars in future health cost savings.

Our state has long needed regulation of electronic smoking devices, which is proliferating due to its low cost and wide availability. This legislation with a ban of flavored nicotine and tobacco products is what is needed to protect our youth.

Please help protect the lungs and lives of our children and adults from these very harmful products that are spreading virally in our communities and schools, from elementary through high school and beyond. We urge you to please **vote in in favor of the language in CD1 and against the proposed language of CD2 and pass the bill with CD1 out of committee so it can become law as soon as pre-emption on tobacco is eliminated by the legislature.** The Hawaii COPD Coalition thanks you very much for your careful consideration of this most important and timely bill.

Very truly yours,

Valerie Chang

Valerie Chang
Executive Director



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Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: September 12, 2023

To: Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kia'Aina, Vice Chair
Members of the Housing, Sustainability and Health Committee

Re: Opposition for PROPOSED CD 2 Bill 46 Relating to Flavored
Tobacco Products

Mtg: Wednesday September 13, 2023, 2:30 PM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI) takes this opportunity to continue to support Bill 46 CD 1. We are in opposition of the proposed language found in CD 2. The intent of Bill 46 Relating to Flavored Tobacco Products is to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in the City and County of Honolulu, which would take effect when the power to regulate the sale of tobacco products is restored to the counties. We continue to applaud the Council and this Committee for considering such an important and timely policy. We do recommend that the Committee consider some alternate language to that found in the proposed CD2.

81% of Hawai'i youth started with a flavored product,ⁱⁱ and by ending the sale of all menthol and other flavored tobacco products, the county can prioritize the health and safety of our community. A report by the US Food and Drug Administration, issued in 2013, found that menthol cigarettes led to increased smoking initiation among youth and young adults, more significant addiction, and decreased success in quitting smoking. Candy, sweet, and menthol flavored tobacco attracts youth and makes nicotine tolerable.

Unregulated menthol and flavored tobacco products severely threaten our established tobacco control policies and do not protect our children. Flavored tobacco products have such a negative impact on public health that over **360 localities have passed restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products**, and at least 170 of those communities restrict the sale of menthol cigarettes as well as other flavored tobacco products.ⁱⁱ

Flavored products are driving youth use.

Flavors in tobacco products entice youth, and nicotine keeps them addicted. In 2020, 8 in 10 youth who use e-cigarettes reported using a flavored product. Of youth e-cigarette users, 85% use flavored products, and fruit, candy/desserts/other sweets, *mint*, and *menthol* are reported as the most popular flavorsⁱⁱⁱ. Ending the sale of **all** flavored tobacco products will reduce their appeal and protect our children from a lifetime of addiction.

Tobacco companies use menthol as a calculated tactic to hook new consumers. Menthol's cooling properties mask the harshness of tobacco. It is marketed to youth and vulnerable groups. Menthol is one of the most popular flavors of youth in Hawai'i, 78% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who smoke use menthol cigarettes^{iv}.

Kids have shifted dramatically to disposable and menthol e-cigarettes, two categories of products left on the market under current federal restrictions. These shifts show that the only way to end this crisis is to eliminate **all** flavored e-cigarettes^v.

Hawai'i voters want restrictions.

In a December 2022 poll^{vi} of registered voters on O'ahu conducted by Ward Research Inc., 93% of respondents said that school aged children vaping or using e-cigarettes is a major problem; *79% support a law prohibiting all flavors, including menthol, of tobacco products, and e-cigarettes*; and, 84% believe that the use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices is harmful for Hawai'i's children, teens and families.

Our community has made it clear they want this public health crisis addressed. Our young people are victims of an industry with limitless resources to ensure they hook the next generation of nicotine users. Their tactics are predatory, and they do not care about the harm they impose on society. Their goal is profit, and they will do whatever necessary, which includes requesting various exemptions to continue to make billions yearly. For example, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s profit was up by 68.2% in the "new" category that includes e-cigarettes and modern oral & snus products. Their profit in this category for 2022 was \$1.4B.^{vii}

Exemptions are Loopholes

For these reasons, it is important to pass a bill that does not allow for the industry to utilize unclear language as loopholes to exploit our most vulnerable populations. This common tactic is used again and again. Cupholder size hookahs, costing a mere \$15.00 and coming in a variety of bright neon colors,^{viii} are items attractive to young people who use these low cost hookahs to smoke sweet, candy flavored shisha. One retail site states, "[T]here is no shortage of options when it comes to hookah flavor variety. With hundreds of choices, the number of ways to combine flavors is nearly limitless."^{ix} The tobacco industry is using an exemption for flavored shisha to entice and hook young people ensuring life-long customers. There are no guardrails or clear guidance around where flavored shisha could be sold, leaving it available for continued broadscale access. Furthermore, the type of hookah exempted in the CD2 language needs to be clarified.

By passing this bill, the county sends a strong, clear message to the public that the City and County of Honolulu is committed to uplifting the health and well-being of its residents and showing that community health is more important than tobacco profits for tobacco companies and their stakeholders.

Thank you for considering our testimony. We support the importance of collaboration and want to continue to work toward a meaningful policy that would end the sale of flavored tobacco products in the City & County of Honolulu.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0398.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/industry-watch/e-cigarettes#:~:text=Flavored%20products%20are%20driving%20youth,as%20the%20most%20popular%20flavors>.

^{iv} <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2020/08/vaping-linked-to-covid-19-risk-in-teens-and-young-adults.html>

^v <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/industry-watch/e-cigarettes#:~:text=Flavored%20products%20are%20driving%20youth,as%20the%20most%20popular%20flavors>.

^{vi} This study by Ward Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=719 Hawaii registered voters (maximum sampling error +/- 3.6%), conducted between November 4-29, 2022.

^{vii} [https://journalnow.com/news/local/business/reynolds-tobacco-workforce-trimmed-by-nearly-11-in-2022/article_217d80d6-c352-11ed-8441-](https://journalnow.com/news/local/business/reynolds-tobacco-workforce-trimmed-by-nearly-11-in-2022/article_217d80d6-c352-11ed-8441-af5d96c15e1e.html#:~:text=Reynolds'%20adjusted%20profit%20from%20operations,Reynolds%20Tobacco%20Co)

[af5d96c15e1e.html#:~:text=Reynolds'%20adjusted%20profit%20from%20operations,Reynolds%20Tobacco%20Co](https://journalnow.com/news/local/business/reynolds-tobacco-workforce-trimmed-by-nearly-11-in-2022/article_217d80d6-c352-11ed-8441-af5d96c15e1e.html#:~:text=Reynolds'%20adjusted%20profit%20from%20operations,Reynolds%20Tobacco%20Co).

^{viii} <https://thehookahlab.com/products/cup-holder-hookah>

^{ix} <https://thehookahlab.com/collections/hookah-tobacco>



September 13th, 2023

Dear Councilmembers,

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids **strongly supports Bill 046 CD1** to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in the City and County of Honolulu.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids & the Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund are pleased to submit this letter in support of a **comprehensive** ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products in the city and county of Honolulu to reduce tobacco use, particularly among youth. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is the nation's largest non-profit, non-governmental advocacy organization solely devoted to reducing tobacco use and its deadly toll by advocating for public policies that prevent kids from using tobacco and help smokers quit. It is encouraging to see cities and counties continue to take thoughtful, evidence-based steps to reduce the number of kids who start using tobacco and help tobacco users quit.

We understand that this bill would not take effect unless the state repealed the preemption on tobacco sale regulation by the counties. The counties of Hawai'i have a long history of enacting tobacco control before the state takes action and we hope that the state will allow the counties to resume their role in protecting their residents against pernicious actors like Big Tobacco.

While Hawai'i has made great strides in reducing tobacco use, tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of premature death and disease in Hawai'i and the nation, killing 480,000 Americans annually, including 1,400 in Hawai'i. **As you discuss policy options, we stand with dozens of other national health organizations to urge you to end the sale of *all* flavored tobacco products including *candy-flavored e-cigarettes, sweet-flavored cigarillos, menthol cigarettes, and hookah products.***

Prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products in all tobacco retailers is a critical step that will help protect children living in Hawai'i from the unrelenting efforts by the tobacco industry to hook them to a deadly addiction. Flavored tobacco products are designed to alter the taste and reduce the harshness of tobacco products so they are more appealing and easy for beginners, who are almost always kids. These products are pervasive and are marketed and sold in a variety of kid-friendly flavors. With their colorful packaging and sweet flavors, flavored tobacco products are often hard to distinguish from the candy displays near which they are



frequently placed in retail outlets. **Eight out of ten youth who have ever used a tobacco product started with a *flavored* product.**¹

Flavored Tobacco Products Are Pervasive

A 2009 federal law, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, prohibited the sale of cigarettes with characterizing flavors other than menthol or tobacco, including candy and fruit flavors. While overall cigarette sales have been declining since the 2009 law, the proportion of smokers using *menthol* cigarettes (the only remaining flavored cigarette) has been increasing.² Menthol cigarettes comprised 37 percent of the market in 2020.³

The Tobacco Control Act's prohibition on characterizing flavors did not apply to other tobacco products, and as a result, tobacco companies have significantly stepped up the introduction and marketing of flavored non-cigarette tobacco products. In fact, the overall market for flavored tobacco products is actually growing. In recent years, there has been an explosion of sweet-flavored tobacco products, especially e-cigarettes and cigars. These products are available in a wide assortment of flavors – like mango, blue razz, pink punch and mint for e-cigarettes and chocolate, watermelon, and cherry dynamite for cigars. Tobacco companies are making and marketing deadly and addictive products that look and taste like a new line of flavors from a Ben and Jerry's ice cream store.

Flavors are not just a critical part of the product design, but are a key marketing ploy for the industry. The 2016 Surgeon General Report on e-cigarettes concluded, "E-cigarettes are marketed by promoting flavors and using a wide variety of media channels and approaches that have been used in the past for marketing conventional tobacco products to youth and young adults."⁴ The 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey found that 70.3% of middle and high school

¹ Ambrose, BK, et al., "Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, published online October 26, 2015.

² Villanti, A., et al., "Changes in the prevalence and correlates of menthol cigarette use in the USA, 2004–2014," *Tobacco Control*, 25(Suppl 2):ii14-ii20, 2016.

³ U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Cigarette Report for 2020, 2021, <https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/federal-trade-commission-cigarette-report-2020-smokeless-tobacco-report-2020/p114508fy20cigarettereport.pdf> [data for top 4 manufacturers only].

⁴ HHS, *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.



students—17.77 million youth—had been exposed to e-cigarette advertisements from at least one source.⁵

Sales of cigars (i.e., large cigars, cigarillos, and small cigars) have more than doubled between 2000 and 2020, and much of the growth is attributable to smaller types of cigars, many of which are flavored and inexpensive.⁶ Nielsen convenience store market scanner data showed that over half (53.3%) of cigar sales in 2020 were for flavored cigars. Among flavored cigars sold in these stores in 2020, the most popular flavors were sweet or candy (30.6%) and fruit (29.5%).⁷ Earlier data show the number of unique cigar flavor names more than doubling from 108 to 250 over the same time period.⁸ The top five most popular cigar brands among 12- to 17-year olds who have used cigars – Black & Mild, Swisher Sweets, White Owl, Backwoods, and Dutch Masters – all come in flavor varieties.⁹ These products are often sold singly or can be priced as low as 3 or 4 for 99 cents, making them even more appealing to price-sensitive youth. Note that cigar smoke is composed of the same toxic and carcinogenic constituents found in cigarette smoke.¹⁰

Although tobacco companies claim to be responding to adult tobacco users' demand for variety, it's clear that flavored tobacco products play a key role in enticing new users, particularly kids, to a lifetime of addiction. This growing market of flavored tobacco products is undermining progress in reducing youth tobacco use.

Flavored Tobacco Products Are Popular Among Youth

These sweet products have fueled the popularity of e-cigarettes and cigars among youth. A government study found that **eight out of ten kids who have ever used tobacco products started with a flavored product.**¹¹ Across all tobacco products, the data is clear: flavored

⁵ Gentzke, A, et al., "Tobacco Product Use and Associated Factors Among Middle and High School Students—National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2021," *MMWR* 71(5): 1-29, March 10, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/ss/pdfs/ss7105a1-H.pdf>.

⁶ U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), Tobacco Statistics.

⁷ Delnevo, CD, et al. "Cigar Sales in Convenience Stores in the US, 2009-2020," *JAMA* 326(23):2429-2432.

⁸ Delnevo, CD, Giovenco, DP, & Miller, EJ, "Changes in the Mass-merchandise Cigar Market since the Tobacco Control Act," *Tobacco Regulatory Science*, 3(2 Suppl 1):S8-S16, 2017.

⁹ SAMHSA's public online data analysis system (PDAS). National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015, https://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2015-DS0001/crosstab/?row=CGR30BR2&column=CATAG2&weight=ANALWT_C&results_received=true.

¹⁰ National Cancer Institute (NCI), *Cigars: Health Effects and Trends. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph No. 9*, 1998, http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/Brp/tcrb/monographs/9/m9_complete.pdf. Chang, CM, et al., "Systematic review of cigar smoking and all cause and smoking related mortality," *BMC Public Health*, 2015.

¹¹ Ambrose, BK, et al., "Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, published online October 26, 2015.



tobacco products are overwhelmingly used by youth as a starter product, and preference for flavors declines with age.

Nationally, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among youth since 2014. Today, youth e-cigarette use remains a serious public health concern, with over 2.5 million youth, including 14.1% of US high schoolers, reporting current e-cigarette use in 2022, according to the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS).¹² According to the 2019 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 30.1% of Hawai'i high school students and 17.7% of middle school students are current e-cigarette users.¹³

Kids are not just experimenting with e-cigarettes, but are using them frequently, leading to an addiction that is difficult to break. According to the 2022 NYTS, 46% of high school e-cigarette users reported vaping on 20 or more days/month, and 30.1% reported daily use.¹⁴ This youth addiction crisis has been fueled by the growth of high nicotine e-cigarettes—many contain as much or more nicotine as a pack of twenty cigarettes. Nicotine is a highly addictive drug that can have lasting damaging effects on adolescent brain development—the brain keeps developing until about age 25. In particular, nicotine use can harm the parts of the adolescent brain responsible for attention, learning, mood and impulse control.¹⁵ The Surgeon General concluded that, “The use of products containing nicotine in any form among youth, including in e-cigarettes, is unsafe.”¹⁶

Youth e-cigarette users are also at risk of smoking cigarettes. A 2018 report from the National Academies of Science, Engineering & Medicine found that “There is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use increases risk of ever using combustible tobacco cigarettes among youth and

¹² Cooper, M et al., “E-Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2022,” *MMWR*, 71(40): 1283-1285, October 7, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/pdfs/mm7140a3-H.pdf>.

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/>.

¹⁴ Cooper, M et al., “E-Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2022,” *MMWR*, 71(40): 1283-1285, October 7, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/pdfs/mm7140a3-H.pdf>.

¹⁵ HHS, *The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General*, CDC, Office of Smoking and Health (OSH), 2014, <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/index.html>. See also: CDC Office on Smoking and Health, “Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults,” March 2019. Accessed August 9, 2019.

¹⁶ HHS, *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.



young adults.”¹⁷ More recent research confirms this finding.¹⁸ Therefore, it is critical for any policy restricting sales of flavored tobacco products to include e-cigarettes.

In February 2020, the FDA restricted some flavors in cartridge-based e-cigarettes, but exempted all menthol-flavored e-cigarettes and left flavored e-liquids and disposable e-cigarettes widely available in every imaginable flavor, including flavors that uniquely appeal to Hawai’i’s children – like luau punch and lychee ice. New data show that the market share of these products has grown substantially and that youth quickly migrated to the flavored products that were exempt from the FDA’s policy. In 2022, 55.3% of US youth e-cigarette users reported using disposable e-cigarettes and 26.6% of users of flavored e-cigarettes reported using menthol e-cigarettes.¹⁹

While the FDA recently announced that it had denied marketing applications for certain flavored e-cigarettes, many of the flavored products most popular among kids, like Juul, are still on the market. Every day these products remain on the market, our kids remain in jeopardy. Because of the delays and gaps in the FDA’s actions, it is critical that states and cities step up their efforts to eliminate ALL flavored e-cigarettes, as well as other flavored tobacco products. The evidence is also clear that as long as any flavored e-cigarettes – including menthol-flavored products – are on the market, kids will shift to them and we will not end this public health crisis. Hawai’i must close the gaps left by the FDA and protect our kids from these dangerous and addictive products.

Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars Increase Youth Smoking and Exacerbate Health Disparities

No other flavored product contributes more to the death and disease caused by tobacco use than menthol cigarettes. Menthol cools and numbs the throat, reducing the harshness of cigarette smoke, thereby making menthol cigarettes more appealing to youth who are initiating smoking. As the only flavored cigarette left on the market, it’s also no surprise that menthol cigarettes are popular among youth. About half of youth who have ever tried smoking started with menthol-flavored cigarettes.²⁰ The FDA’s Tobacco Product Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) has reported that:

¹⁷ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), *Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes*, 2018, <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx>.

¹⁸ Berry, KM, et al., “Association of Electronic Cigarette Use with Subsequent Initiation of Tobacco Cigarettes in US Youths,” *JAMA Network Open*, 2(2), published online February 1, 2019; Pierce, JP, et al., “Use of E-Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products and Progression to Daily Cigarette Smoking,” *Pediatrics*, 147(2), published online January 11, 2021.

¹⁹ Cooper, M et al., “E-Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2022,” *MMWR*, 71(40): 1283-1285, October 7, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/pdfs/mm7140a3-H.pdf>.

²⁰ Ambrose, BK, et al., “Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, published online October 26, 2015.



- Menthol cigarettes increase the number of children who experiment with cigarettes and the number of children who become regular smokers, increasing overall youth smoking.
- Young people who initiate using menthol cigarettes are more likely to become addicted and become long-term daily smokers.

According to the 2019 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 59% of Hawaii's high school cigarette smokers and 38% of middle school cigarette smokers used menthol cigarettes.

In addition, cheap, flavored cigars – sold in hundreds of flavors like cherry dynamite, tropical twist and chocolate – have flooded the market in recent years and fueled the popularity of these products with kids. The 2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey shows that cigars are the second most popular tobacco product (after e-cigarettes) among all high school students and are especially popular among Black high school students.²¹

Tobacco companies have a long history of targeting communities with menthol marketing.

Tobacco industry marketing, often targeted at minority communities, has been instrumental in increasing the use of menthol products and in the disproportionate use of menthol products by minority groups and youth. TPSAC concluded that menthol cigarettes are marketed disproportionately to younger smokers and Black Americans.²² Dating back to the 1950s, the tobacco industry has targeted these communities with marketing for menthol cigarettes through sponsorship of community and music events, targeted magazine advertising, youthful imagery, and marketing in the retail environment. Nationwide, as a result of this targeting, 85% of Black smokers smoke menthol cigarettes, compared to 29% of White smokers.²³ Nationally, menthol is also disproportionately high among Asian and Hispanic smokers, LGBTQ+ smokers, smokers with mental health problems, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, and pregnant women.²⁴

²¹ Park-Lee E, et al. "Tobacco Product Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2022." *MMWR* 71(45):1429–1435, November 11, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/pdfs/mm7145a1-H.pdf>.

²² TPSAC, *Menthol Cigarettes and Public Health: Review of the Scientific Evidence and Recommendations*, July 21, 2011.

²³ Delnevo, CD, et al., "Banning Menthol Cigarettes: A Social Justice Issue Long Overdue," *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 22(10): 1673-1675, 2020.

²⁴ Delnevo, CD, et al., "Banning Menthol Cigarettes: A Social Justice Issue Long Overdue," *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 22(10): 1673-1675, 2020.



There is also evidence that the industry has targeted the Hawaiian population. In the 1980s, a marketing group strategized how to reach native Hawaiians with Kool cigarettes, a popular menthol brand. The agency recommended that Kool employ “ethnic advertising” in Hawai’i, recommending the use of models that were “fun, happy-go-lucky young people in their 20s...[who have] full social calendars and spend a lot of time outdoors at the beach... people who display what islanders call the aloha spirit.”²⁵ An assessment of tobacco advertising in Hawai’i found that Kool, a popular menthol brand, was the most heavily advertised brand across Hawai’i in the early 2000s.²⁶ The 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System shows that prevalence is high among ethnic groups that comprise a significant proportion of Hawaii’s population, with 79% of Filipino smokers, 78% of Native Hawaiian smokers, and 69% of Japanese smokers usually smoking menthol cigarettes.

Menthol cigarettes are a major reason why Black Americans suffer disproportionately from tobacco use. The tobacco industry’s “investment” in the African American community has had a destructive impact. In 2013, the FDA released a report finding that menthol cigarettes lead to increased smoking initiation among youth and young adults, greater addiction, and decreased success in quitting smoking.²⁷ Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death among Black Americans, claiming 45,000 Black lives every year.²⁸ Tobacco use is a major contributor to three of the leading causes of death among Black Americans - heart disease, cancer and stroke.²⁹ The higher rates of some tobacco-caused diseases among Black Americans result, in part, from their greater use of menthol cigarettes, which are associated with reduced

²⁵ Anderson, SJ, “Marketing of menthol and consumer perceptions: a review of tobacco industry documents,” *Tobacco Control*, 20(Suppl 2): ii20-ii28, 2011.

²⁶ Glanz, K, et al., “Operation Storefront Hawaii: Tobacco Advertising and Promotion in Hawaii Stores,” *Journal of Health Communication*, 11(7): 699-707, 2006.

²⁷ FDA, *Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes*, 2013.

²⁸ American Cancer Society, “Cancer Facts & Figures for African Americans, 2016-2018,” 2016, <http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/content/@editorial/documents/document/acspc-047403.pdf>. American Heart Association, “African Americans and Cardiovascular Diseases: Statistical Fact Sheet, 2012 Update,” http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@sop/@smd/documents/downloadable/ucm_319568.pdf. HHS, “Tobacco Use Among US Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups—African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics: A Report of the Surgeon General,” 1998, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/1998/complete_report/pdfs/complete_report.pdf

²⁹ HHS, “Tobacco Use Among US Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups—African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics: A Report of the Surgeon General,” 1998; CDC, National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 68, No. 9. Table 10, 2019 https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf.



cessation.³⁰ Researchers estimate that among the Black community, 157,000 smoking-related premature deaths and 1.5 million excess life-years between the years 1980 and 2018 can be attributed to menthol cigarettes.³¹

Action to prohibit menthol cigarettes is long overdue. In 2011, TPSAC concluded that “Removal of menthol cigarettes from the marketplace would benefit public health in the United States.”³² Over a decade after TPSAC issues its report—in April 2022—the FDA issued proposed rulemaking to prohibit menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. However, until any FDA action is finalized, states and cities should continue their growing efforts to end the sale of menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products. It will take time for the FDA to finalize and implement the necessary regulations to prohibit menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, and tobacco industry lawsuits could cause more delays. States and cities have an obligation to protect the health of their citizens and must act now to stop tobacco companies from targeting kids and other groups with menthol cigarettes and other flavored products. We can’t afford more delay in taking action to protect kids and save lives.

The scientific evidence leaves no doubt that menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products increase the number of people, particularly kids, who try the product, become addicted and die a premature death as a result. Prohibiting the sale of menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products is an important step toward protecting our children from the tobacco industry’s aggressive efforts to hook children to a deadly, addictive product. This issue is about protecting our kids, saving lives, and advancing health equity.

Thank you for considering a strong and comprehensive policy without exemptions. This ordinance will save lives in Hawai’i.

Sincerely,

Liza Ryan Gill

³⁰ HHS, “Tobacco Use Among US Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups—African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics: A Report of the Surgeon General,” 1998; HHS, *Reducing the Health Consequences of Smoking: 25 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014. See also Alexander, LA, et al., “Why we must continue to investigate menthol’s role in the African American smoking paradox,” *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 18(S1): S91-S101, 2016.

³¹ Mendez, D and Lee, TT, “Consequences of a match made in hell: the harm caused by menthol smoking to the African American population over 1980-2018,” *Tobacco Control*, published online September 16, 2021.

³² Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC), *Menthol Cigarettes and Public Health: Review of the Scientific Evidence and Recommendations*, July 21, 2011
<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AdvisoryCommittees/CommitteesMeetingMaterials/TobaccoProductsScientificAdvisoryCommittee/UCM269697.pdf>.



Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Hawaii

Relating to the Proposed Exemptions for hookah/shisha and “premium” cigars, please see the photos below for examples of products that have been created to fit within loopholes created for hookah and cigars.



DISPOSABLE E-HOOKAHS



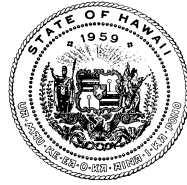
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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 46-23, C.D. 2
RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

COUNCILMEMBER MATT WEYER, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: September 13, 2023

Room Number: Council Chambers &
Videoconference

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact of a ban on flavored tobacco products in Honolulu County would result in modest reductions in the State's tax revenues while at the same time leading to reductions in chronic diseases and health care spending, including Medicaid spending in the state.

Department Testimony: The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully opposes the proposed amendments through Council Draft 2 (C.D. 2) to Bill 46-23, C.D. 2. The opposition is to the exemption of premium cigars, loose leaf tobacco and shisha tobacco products in Section 2.41-2 Prohibition.(d) Exceptions (page 6).

In 2022, cigars were the second most commonly used tobacco product among high school and middle school youth in the United States (next to e-cigarettes).¹ The availability of cigars in a variety of flavors that are banned in cigarettes, and the fact that they are often sold as a single stick or in small quantities makes them alluring to price-sensitive youth.² Shisha tobacco products also pose risks to health as in a typical one-hour hookah session, users may inhale 100-200 times the amount of smoke compared to a regular combustible cigarette.³ Hookah tobacco

¹ Park-Lee, E. (2022). Tobacco Product Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7145a1>

² CDCTobaccoFree. (2023, March 24). *Cigars*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/cigars/index.htm

³ CDCTobaccoFree. (2021, April 23). *Hookahs*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/hookahs/index.htm

1 and smoke contain chemicals known to cause lung, bladder and oral cancer.⁴ Loose leaf tobacco
2 also poses risk for cancer of the mouth, throat, and pancreas.⁵ Their availability in a variety of
3 flavors may increase their appeal to youth.⁶

4 The absence of protective policies to act as a preventive buffer between the promotion of
5 enticing electronic smoking devices (ESDs), also known as e-cigarettes, and youth, contributed
6 to the ongoing rise in frequent use and unrestricted access to nicotine. It is estimated that 20.7%
7 or 6,200 high schoolers and 12% or 2,300 middle schoolers in Honolulu reported current use of
8 ESDs.^{7,8} The unrestricted promotion of e-cigarettes has addicted a new generation of young
9 people to nicotine, increased exposure to harmful substances and likelihood for smoking
10 cigarettes in the future.⁹ U.S. retail sales data showed that sales of the highest levels of nicotine
11 grew from 5% of total e-cigarette sales in 2017 to 81% in 2022.¹⁰ These data raise serious public
12 health and safety concerns because of the long-term effects of nicotine on youth brain
13 development.¹¹ Comprehensive evidence-based prevention policies are needed that restrict the
14 sale of flavored tobacco products.

15 Alluring flavored tobacco products continue to drive the youth vaping epidemic. Nearly
16 85% of U.S. youth who currently use e-cigarettes use flavors.¹² The most popular flavors

⁴ CDCTobaccoFree. (2021, April 23). *Hookahs*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/hookahs/index.htm

⁵ *Smokeless tobacco products*. (n.d.). Mayo Clinic. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking/in-depth/chewing-tobacco/art-20047428>

⁶ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. August 3, 2023. Flavored Tobacco Products Attract Kids. Retrieved September 12, 2023 from chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnbpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://assets.tobaccofreekids.org/factsheets/0383.pdf

⁷ *Hawai'i IBIS - Query Result—Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data—Electronic vapor product—Current use, High Schools, County-level*. (2017-2021). Retrieved August 23, 2023, from https://hhdw.org/report/query/result/yrbs/VaporCurr/VaporCurr_HS_CNTY.html

⁸ *Hawai'i IBIS - Query Result—Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data—Electronic vapor product—Current use, Middle Schools, County-level*. (2017-2021). Retrieved August 23, 2023, from https://hhdw.org/report/query/result/yrbs/VaporCurr/VaporCurr_MS_CNTY.html

⁹ US Department of Health and Human Services. E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. pdf icon [PDF – 8.47MB]. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. Accessed July 27, 2018.

¹⁰ Ali, F. R. M., Seaman, E. L., Crane, E., Schillo, B., & King, B. A. (2023). Trends in US E-cigarette Sales and Prices by Nicotine Strength, Overall and by Product and Flavor Type, 2017–2022. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 25(5), 1052–1056. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntac284>

¹¹ *The Effects of Nicotine on The Adolescent Brain—Vaping Side Effects. Get the Facts Here.* - Tobacco Free CA. (n.d.). Retrieved January 28, 2021, from <https://tobaccofreeca.com/e-cigarettes/the-effects-of-nicotine-on-the-adolescent-brain/>

¹² Cooper, M. (2022). Notes from the Field: E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7140a3>

1 continue to be fruit, followed by candy/dessert/sweets, mint, and menthol.¹³ Among users of
2 cartridge or pod-based e-cigarettes, over half reported using either fruit (58.4%) or menthol
3 (53.9%), followed by candy/desserts/sweets (30.3%) and mint (27.6%).¹⁴

4 Menthol flavors are too often exempted from tobacco control policies.¹⁵ Menthol is an
5 organic compound that has cooling, analgesic, and irritative properties, which can change the
6 way the brain registers the sensations of taste and pain and when in cigarettes can make harmful
7 chemicals more easily absorbed in the body.^{16,17} Menthol also facilitates absorption by masking
8 the harshness of, and making it easier to inhale, cigarette smoke. The availability of menthol
9 cigarettes likely increases experimentation and progression to regular smoking and the
10 availability of menthol increases the likelihood of addiction for youth smokers.^{18,19} Exempting
11 menthol perpetuates social injustice as menthol flavoring has been used by the tobacco industry
12 to appeal to youth, racial minorities, and marginalized populations. The tobacco industry has
13 targeted minority groups such as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community,
14 Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, and African Americans.^{20,21,22} Menthol

¹³ Cooper, M. (2022). Notes from the Field: E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7140a3>

¹⁴ Cooper, M. (2022). Notes from the Field: E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7140a3>

¹⁵ *The importance of strong local flavored tobacco policies*. (n.d.). Truth Initiative. Retrieved February 1, 2021, from <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/emerging-tobacco-products/study-highlights-importance-strong-local-flavored>

¹⁶ 45 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups—African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, 1998

¹⁸ 8 U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee. *Menthol Cigarettes and Public Health: Review of the Scientific Evidence and Recommendations*. March 23, 2011. Available at: <https://wayback.archiveit.org/7993/20170405201731/https://www.fda.gov/downloads/AdvisoryCommittees/CommitteesMeetingMaterials/TobaccoProductsScientificAdvisoryCommittee/UCM269697.pdf>

¹⁹ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes*. 2013. Available at: <http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo39032>

²⁰ Washington, H. (2002). *Burning Love: Big Tobacco Takes Aim at LGBT Youths* | *AJPH* | Vol. 92 Issue 7. *American Journal of Public Health*. <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.92.7.1086>

²¹ Muggli, M. E., Pollay, R. W., Lew, R., & Joseph, A. M. (2002). Targeting of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by the tobacco industry: Results from the Minnesota Tobacco Document Depository. *Tobacco Control*, 11(3), 201–209. <https://doi.org/10.1136/tc.11.3.201>

²² Primack, B. A., Bost, J. E., Land, S. R., & Fine, M. J. (2007). Volume of Tobacco Advertising in African American Markets: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Public Health Reports*, 122(5), 607–615.

1 use is also high among those with behavioral health conditions and those who are
2 socioeconomically disadvantaged.^{23,24}

3 Higher proportions of youth e-cigarette use in Hawai‘i counties call for more urgent
4 action on the local level. The number of youth in Honolulu (8,500) who currently use
5 e-cigarettes is alarming.^{25,26} The DOH supports retaining the original prohibitions in the Bill 46-
6 23, C.D. 1 version as a measure to protect the next generation from lifelong addiction to tobacco
7 use by prohibiting the sales, distribution, and mislabeling of all flavored tobacco and nicotine
8 products in Honolulu.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

²³ National Survey on Drug Use and health, 2018

²⁴ National Survey on Drug Use and health, 2018

²⁵ Hawai‘i IBIS - Query Result—Hawai‘i Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data—Electronic vapor product—Current use, High Schools, County-level. (2017-2021). Retrieved August 23, 2023, from https://hhdw.org/report/query/result/yrbs/VaporCurr/VaporCurr_HS_CNTY.html

²⁶ Hawai‘i IBIS - Query Result—Hawai‘i Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data—Electronic vapor product—Current use, Middle Schools, County-level. (2017-2021). Retrieved August 23, 2023, from https://hhdw.org/report/query/result/yrbs/VaporCurr/VaporCurr_MS_CNTY.html