

Bill 46 Testimony



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nuʻuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817
808.460.6109
www.fightcancer.org

City and County of Honolulu
Council Meeting
Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

**ACS CAN OPPOSES Bill 46-23 C.D.2 –
RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**

Cynthia Au, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Guam
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to OPPOSE Bill 46-23, C.D.2: RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. We support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN supports efforts to invest in comprehensive policies that would strengthen the health infrastructure in Hawaii to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help adults already addicted to tobacco to quit.

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in Hawaii with an estimated 1,400 adults dying from smoking every year.ⁱ There are 21,000 keiki who are alive now that will die prematurely due to smoking-related disease.ⁱⁱ Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death nationwide.

ACS CAN supports comprehensive tobacco control policy including ending the sale of menthol cigarettes and ALL other flavored tobacco products with no exemptions. We oppose the exemptions in Bill 46, CD2 of hookah, premium cigars, loose leaf tobacco, shisha tobacco products and cannabis products and concerned that the definition of "Tobacco Products" in Bill 46, CD2, by way of the exempted tobacco products creates a conflicting definition with Hawaii State law found in 328J-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The County and State definition of "Tobacco Products" should align to avoid any confusion which may have unintended consequences and affect current comprehensive tobacco regulations. Please reconsider exempting any tobacco products which is a tobacco industry tactic to erode current tobacco policies in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter, we look forward to continuing to work with the City and County of Honolulu Council to come up with comprehensive tobacco policies to

decrease tobacco use in Hawaii. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Au at 808.460.6109, or Cynthia.au@cancer.org.

¹ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated January 20.2023. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

² Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated January 20.2023. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>