



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, House Health Committee
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, House Health Committee
Members, House Health Committee
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Policy and Advocacy Director 
Date: January 30, 2009
Hrg: House Health Committee on February 3, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.
Re: **Support for HB 1509, Relating to Smoking**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1509 which prohibits smoking on Waikiki Beach in the shoreline area. We urge you to pass this measure out of committee.

The Coalition worked hard in 2006 to pass the Smoke-Free Law; 85% of Hawai'i residents favor the Smoke-Free Law. Tobacco-Free Big Island, one of our local coalition partners, led the movement on the Big Island to create Smoke-Free Parks and Beaches which led to the passage of Hawai'i County Ordinance 08-56 in 2008. These laws have helped to change social norms. Our young people are growing up in a Hawai'i that promotes health by ensuring children and families are protected from second-hand smoke.

The bill at hand is an opportunity to create outdoor areas for our children and families free of dangerous second-hand smoke, as well as to protect our beautiful environment. Residents and visitors will be able to spend time on Waikiki beaches without smoke interfering with their enjoyment of the water and shoreline. The law will allow many individuals who suffer from lung disease the ability, perhaps for the first time in a long time, to enjoy Waikiki's shoreline and beaches without fear or worry about asthma or an emphysema attack because of someone smoking nearby. Hawaii's beaches and ocean will be protected from cigarette-butt litter and tobacco trash.

Social research indicates that children perceive what is acceptable and what they ought to do from what they understand is a normative behavior in a community. Creating a smoke-free beach will eventually lead to a norm expectation of smoke-free beaches by children and others who use these facilities. We look forward to passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

To whom it my concern, please submit this testimony for;

House Health Committee Hearing

Tuesday, February 03, 2009. 8:30 a.m. Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, and Committee members.

House Bill 1509 (HB1509)

Position; STONGLY OPPOSED

ABOUT HB1509, IT'S NOT OK! I find this bill to be little more than another wicked weave of bigotry and fear mongering straight from the confused and irresponsible minds of the anti-smoking lobby. They are not representative of your constituents but to the contrary are little more than **professional astroturf groups raking government funds** off the settlement agreement for the advancement of their own greed. I oppose this component for the "**2009 TOURISM ABATEMENT PACKAGE**" on the following grounds.

1. Littering Issue: It is unjust to harass and demean a full fifth of the population basic on the unfounded assertions of a payed few. If littering is the issue then littering fines and enforcement should be increased for all littering. It is very interesting that the same individuals pushing for this bill could apparently care less about six pack rings, glass bottles, styrofoam containers, and so on since these are the things the anti-smokers bring to the beach and which some of them undoubtably litter.

2. Public Reaction: I ask you if you would be proud to tell your constituents that smoke how you supported this measure. How it's the first insulting step to a ban on all beaches and parks. Of the twenty smokers I interviewed on Saturday at Waikiki Beach, only one smoker was ok with this bill, five were displeased, and 14 were upset to the point of angar.

3. Tourism Abatement: The Governor already has tried to calm down the Japanese tourism market down after the kick in the teeth it received from the 2006 "Smoke Free Law", to little avail. Pleading with them that they could still smoke in places such as public beaches. Hawaii Tourism LLC even had come out with free pocket ashtrays to encourage them to still come to hawaii. This measure is only going to exasperate an already depressed tourism market and economy.

4. Enforcement Problems: The Big Island beach smoking ban is already viewed as a joke. It did not "get butts of the beach" instead it bread further contempt for our laws and ordinances, it is unenforceable, and should attempts be made to enforce it would require the hiring of additional personal which we can't afford right now. In addition this type of law would force undercover police officers to reveal themselves, blowing their cover as the work to rid our beaches of illegal drug activity.

This bill is little more than another sad and bigoted product of the professional anti-smoking lobbyist groups and their war against your constituents and our visitors that enjoy tobacco. Please vote no to this unjust, economically harmful, and bigoted abombination of legislation.

Michael Zehner

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: kawikc@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 3:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Rep. Scott Nishimoto; Rep. Ryan Yamane
Subject: Simply Amazing! HB1509

It is simply amazing that lawmakers are even considering such a ludicrous bill which will only further increase our falling tourist numbers. I'm against this lunacy. kawika crowley Hawaii Smokers Alliance

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nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Elaine Heiby [heiby@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 5:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: epyamane@Capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Scott Nishimoto
Subject: OPPOSE HB 1509

To whom it my concern, please submit this testimony for
House Health Committee Hearing
Tuesday, February 03, 2009. 8:30 a.m. Conference Room 329

RE: OPPOSE House Bill 1509 (HB1509)

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, and Committee members:

HB 1509 has nothing whatsoever to do with public health. There is not a shred of evidence to suggest that second hand smoke on public beaches and in parks harms anyone.

HB 1509 is not about littering. The State already has laws against littering of all kinds. The casual observer can tell you that people litter less when there are trash cans to use. If littering were your concern, then this would be a bill to require more trash cans in beaches and parks.

So if HB 1509 is not about public health or littering, then what could it be about?
There is one and only one answer to this question. HB 1509 is a hate law and those who support it are publicly announcing their own bigotry and desire to discriminate through segregation.

I hope this Committee shows the integrity of publicly denouncing all forms of bigotry whether or not you personally like or dislike people who smoke.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

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