



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Richard W. Stacey or Chelsea N. Okamoto, Deputy Attorneys General, at 808-586-1199)

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Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) strongly supports this bill and offers the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to stabilize funding for the Tobacco Enforcement Unit (Unit) within the Department by increasing the amount of funds that the Tobacco Enforcement Special Fund (Special Fund) can carry over at the end of the fiscal year; increasing a portion of the cigarette tax stamp fee allotted to the Special Fund from 1.5 percent to 2.0 percent, thereby increasing the total cigarette stamp fee from 1.7 percent to 2.2 percent; and increasing the sum of moneys to be deposited into the Special Fund from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) annual payment. Any remaining funds in excess of the carried over amount will continue to lapse to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year.

In 1998, Hawaii and 45 other states signed the MSA with the four largest tobacco manufacturers in the United States to settle smoking-related claims. The MSA stipulated that these manufacturers provide annual payments to the signing states, including Hawaii. Hawaii's MSA payment for fiscal year 2021-2022 was over \$38.4 million. The MSA requires states to diligently enforce the requirements of the "model statute," which Hawaii enacted as the Tobacco Liability Act, chapter 675, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Under the MSA, tobacco manufacturers can contest the diligent enforcement of states, leading to arbitration. It is crucial to diligently enforce the Tobacco Liability Act, because failure to do so may result in Hawaii losing a significant portion of its MSA payments. Recent arbitration decisions found Washington, Missouri, and New Mexico non-diligent and placed their annual MSA payments at risk. These decisions make it clear that the Unit needs to stabilize funding to maintain and further its diligent enforcement efforts and reduce the risk of losing MSA funds as a result of future arbitrations.

The Legislature established the Special Fund in 2001 for the Department to administer, monitor, and enforce the MSA, the cigarette tax stamp program, and any other related statutes or programs (see section 28-15(a), HRS). The Special Fund receives \$350,000 of the MSA annual payment (see section 328L-2, HRS). At the close of each fiscal year, up to \$500,000 carries over to the Special Fund for the next fiscal year, and the remainder lapses to the credit of the state general fund (see section 28-15(c), HRS). The majority of the Special Fund's revenue is derived from a percentage of the cigarette tax stamp collection (see section 245-26(a)(2), HRS).

The cigarette tax stamp revenues reported by the Department of Taxation have plummeted, from over \$116 million in fiscal year 2015-2016 to just over \$85 million in fiscal year 2021-2022. The cigarette tax stamp fee revenues deposited into the tobacco enforcement special fund have similarly dropped – from \$1.74 million in fiscal year 2015-2016 to \$1.27 million in fiscal year 2021-2022. This downward trend is expected to continue and, if so, the Special Fund will be unable to cover the Unit's expenditures in the near future. Despite this decline in revenue resources, the Unit's responsibilities to enforce the MSA remain the same. This bill will provide more funding stability in anticipation of further reductions in cigarette tax revenues, allowing the Unit to maintain the resources necessary for the required diligent enforcement and to prepare for arbitration.

The attached chart was created to demonstrate the flow of the cigarette and tobacco tax and license money and the effect of this bill on the funding stream.

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

# CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO TAX AND LICENSE MONEY



**Cigarette Tax Stamp**  
 \$ 0.16/cigarette or little cigar  
 \$3.20/pack of 20  
 \$85,131,574 (FY22)

2 cents	Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund	\$10,583,348 (FY 22)
1.125 cents	Trauma System Special Fund	\$5,953,133 (FY 22)
1.250 cents	Community Health Centers Special Fund	\$6,614,592 (FY 22)
1.250 cents	Emergency Medical Services Special Fund	\$6,614,592 (FY 22)
§245-15, HRS		

**"Stamp Fee"**  
 § 245-26, HRS

1.5%	0.2%	<b>Total:</b> 1.7%
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**Tobacco Enforcement Special Fund (AG)**  
 \$1,270,002 (FY 22)  
 12.6% decrease from FY 21

**Cigarette Tax Stamp Administrative Special Fund (DOTAX)**  
 \$169,334 (FY 22)

**remainder** → **General Fund**  
 ~\$65,658,000 (FY22)

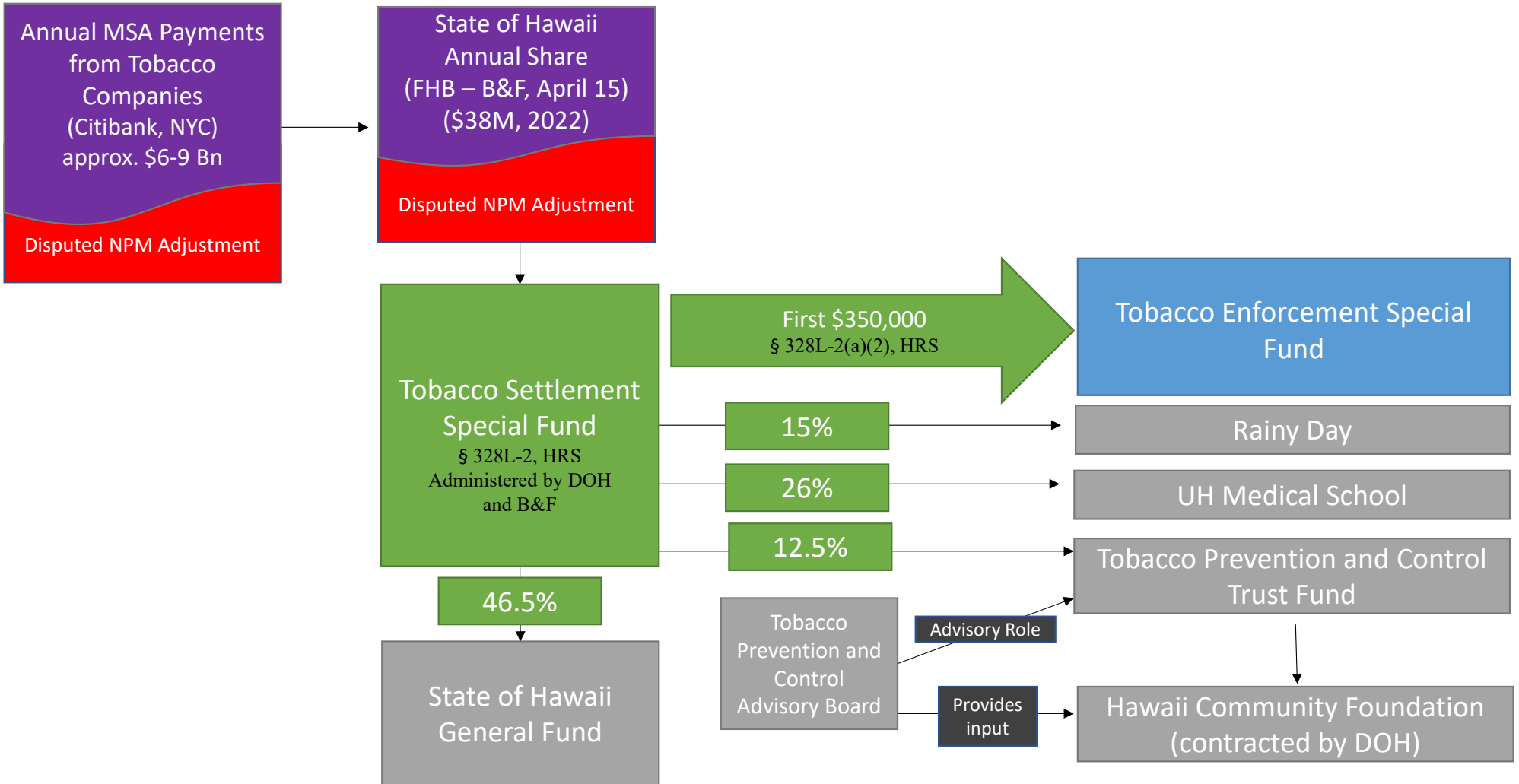
**All other tobacco products**  
 70% of wholesale  
 §245-3, HRS

**Large Cigars**  
 50% of wholesale  
 §245-3, HRS

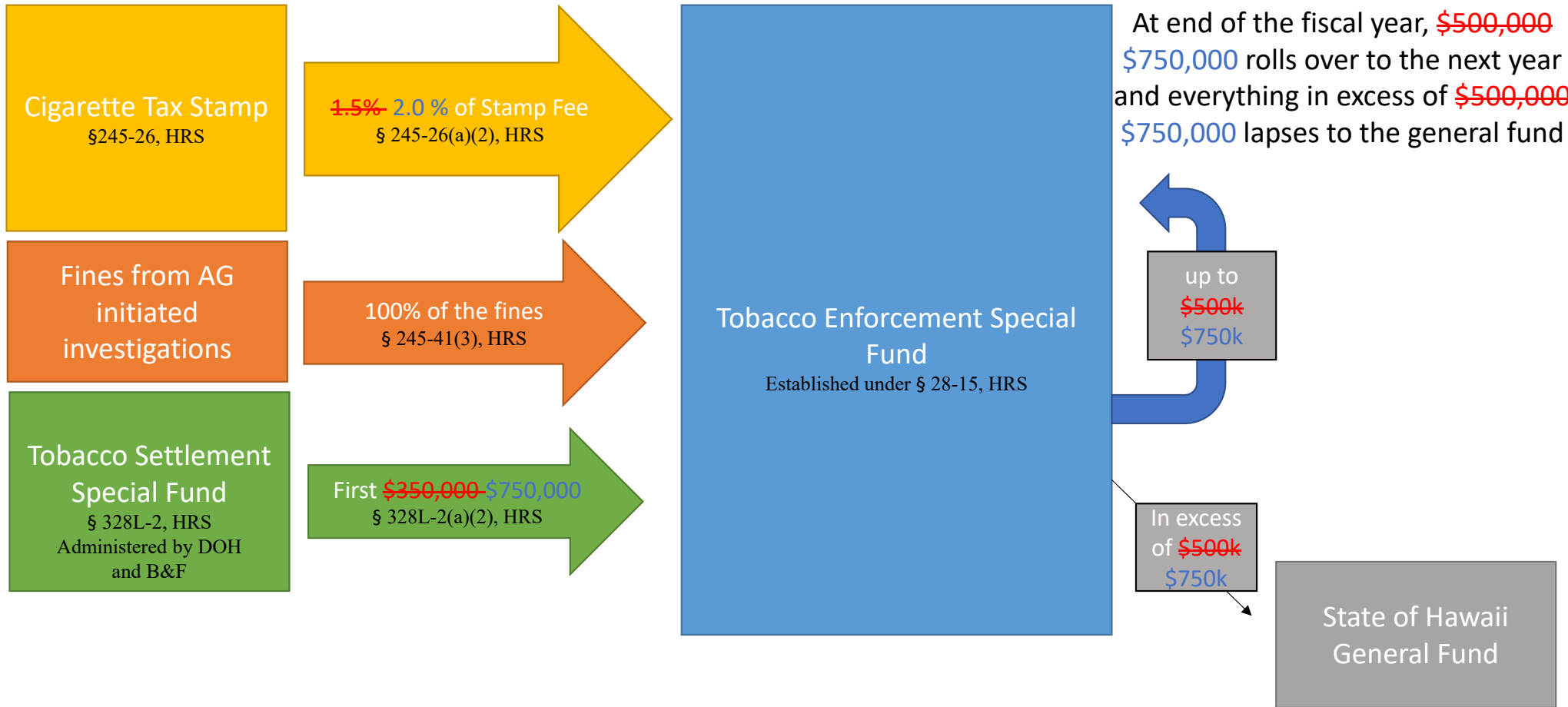
**\$2.50/tobacco license fee**  
 §245-3, HRS

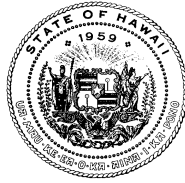
**\$20.00/retail permit**  
 §245-3, HRS

# TOBACCO MASTER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT



SUMMARY OF HB982/SB1280





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 4, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Taxation  
2 (DOTAX) and the Office of the Attorney General (AG) for fiscal implications related to this  
3 measure.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports House Bill 982, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1  
5 (H.B. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 1) as a public health measure to ensure sustainability of the State's  
6 tobacco enforcement activities and compliance requirements. H.B. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 proposes  
7 to amend the amount of funds that the tobacco enforcement special fund can carry over,  
8 increases cigarette tax stamp fees, increases the percent of the cigarette tax stamp fee deposited  
9 to the tobacco enforcement special fund, and amends the amount of funds to be deposited in the  
10 tobacco settlement special fund (TSSF).

11 The nexus between the DOH and the AG Tobacco Enforcement Unit (TEU) began when  
12 the State of Hawaii joined in the multi-state suit against the tobacco manufacturers. The public  
13 health and economic cost of smoking was increasing with almost one in five adults and nearly  
14 one in three youth smoking by 1997.<sup>1</sup> Hawaii with forty-five other states agreed on the Master

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<sup>1</sup> Hawaii Department of Health. 1997 Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System, and 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

1 Settlement Agreement (MSA) with the tobacco manufacturers with the intent of furthering,  
2 “policies designed to reduce youth smoking, to promote the public health and to secure monetary  
3 payments to the Settling States.”<sup>2</sup> The AG Tobacco Enforcement special fund portion, used for  
4 the diligent enforcement of the MSA is described in §328L-2(a), and the remaining portion of the  
5 TSSF is distributed by the DOH pursuant to §328L-2(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

6 Sufficient funding for the AG tobacco enforcement special fund will assure the diligent  
7 enforcement of the tobacco MSA including requirements in Chapters 486P and 675, HRS, so  
8 Hawaii remains in compliance as a settling state. The impact of negligence due to shortfalls in  
9 the AG TEU may have negative consequences for the annual payment to Hawaii from the MSA  
10 with cascading public health consequences for tobacco prevention and cessation services in  
11 Hawaii provided through the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund that are funded  
12 through the TSSF. The other portions to be negatively impacted are to the emergency and  
13 budget reserve fund, university revenue-undertakings fund, and the state general fund.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None

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<sup>2</sup> Master Settlement Agreement. January 2019 Printing. (retrieved 2-06-23:  
<https://naagweb.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2019-01-MSA-and-Exhibits-Final.pdf>)



JOSH GREEN M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau  
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA  
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF  
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

**TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. No. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Funding for the Department of the Attorney General Tobacco Enforcement Unit

**BEFORE THE:**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Judiciary

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") supports H.B. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, an Administration measure, and offers the following comments for your consideration.

Section 2 of the bill amends section 28-15(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to increase funding from \$500,000 to \$750,000 for the Tobacco Enforcement Special Fund (TESF), which is used to support the Tobacco Enforcement Unit within the Department of the Attorney General.

Section 3 of the bill amends section 245-26(a), HRS, by increasing cigarette stamp fees from 1.7 to 2.2 percent of the denominated value of each stamp sold, with the additional fees being deposited to the TESF.

Section 4 of the bill amends section 328L-2, HRS, to increase the amount of funds from tobacco settlement moneys received by the State each fiscal year to be deposited into the TESF from \$350,000 to \$750,000.

The measure has an effective date of July 1, 2023.

The Department is able to administer this measure with an effective date of July 1, 2023 or later, and notes that it will need to work with the appropriate vendors and financial institutions to ensure that the fee increase for the stamp is properly implemented.

The Department estimates no material revenue impact to the general fund and a revenue gain to the Tobacco Enforcement Special Fund as follows (\$ millions):

<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



## HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
Chair  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH  
Secretary  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Native Hawaiian Research Office

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ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

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Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD  
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd  
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD  
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD  
Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai  
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP  
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD  
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public  
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: April 1, 2023

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Support HB 982 HD1 SD Relating to Funding for the Department  
of the Attorney General Tobacco Enforcement Unit

Hrg: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM

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The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>1</sup> is in **Support of HB 982 HD1 SD1**, which would stabilize and increase funding for the tobacco enforcement unit within the Department of the Attorney General through several ways. It will increase the amount of funds that the tobacco enforcement special fund can carry over at the end of the fiscal year; increase the cigarette tax stamp fee and by concurrently increasing the percentage of the cigarette tax stamp fee deposited to the tobacco enforcement special fund; and amend the amount of funds to be deposited in the tobacco enforcement special fund from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund.

In short, this bill will support the work of the tobacco enforcement unit within the Department of the Attorney General. The tobacco enforcement unit administers, monitors, and enforces the tobacco master settlement agreement and related Hawai'i laws. The funding for supporting this unit has decreased over time because of the reduced number of cigarette sales.

The decrease in cigarette use is hopeful, and the trend is expected to continue. One day that number could be zero, and it is because of the comprehensive approach that has been taken to regulate cigarettes through taxes, regulation, licensing and permitting, and enforcement. By increasing access to funding, we can ensure that the Enforcement Unit will continue to do its job, supporting that comprehensive approach.

Thank you for considering HB 982 HD1 SD1, will help to support a comprehensive approach to tobacco regulation.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Mierzwa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular highlight.

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

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<sup>i</sup> The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) dedicated to reducing tobacco use through education, policy, and advocacy. With more than two decades of history in Hawai'i, the Coalition has led several campaigns on enacting smoke-free environments, including being the first state in the nation to prohibit the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to purchasers under 21 years of age.



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 221  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0982, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0982, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would stabilize and increase funding for the Tobacco Enforcement Unit within the Department of the Attorney General by:

- (1) Establishing the cap of \$750,000 as the amount that the Tobacco Enforcement Special Fund (Special Fund) can receive year fiscal year and can carry over at the end of the fiscal year;
- (2) Increasing the Cigarette Tax Stamp Fee (Fee) and increasing the percentage of the Fee allocated to the Special Fund; and
- (3) Taking effect on July 1, 2023.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 0982, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2023; 10:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

This bill is part of the Administration's legislative package and it was proposed by the Department of the Attorney General (ATG-04(23)).

FQHCs have long seen first-hand how tobacco has literally destroyed the lives of our patients and their families. Because of the ubiquity of cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and now electronic smoking devices, the impacts of tobacco harms our citizenry on a generational basis with people experimenting at even earlier ages. Accordingly, the HPCA supports efforts that would improve enforcement of existing laws and create disincentives for consumers to use these products.

**The HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



fightcancer.org

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

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

**ACS CAN SUPPORTS HB 982 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT.**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT HB 982 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT.

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.<sup>i</sup> There are 21,000 keiki who are alive now that will die prematurely due to smoking-related disease.<sup>ii</sup> Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death nationwide. ACS CAN supports increasing funding to ensure effective enforcement of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement and related laws as well as enforcing the cigarette tax stamp program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Au at 808.460.6109, or [Cynthia.au@cancer.org](mailto:Cynthia.au@cancer.org).

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<sup>i</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated January 20, 2023. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

<sup>ii</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. Updated January 20, 2023. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase User Fees, Alter Earmarks

BILL NUMBER: HB 982 SD 1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Increases the amount of funding for the tobacco enforcement special fund within the Department of the Attorney General by: (1) increasing the amount of funds that the tobacco enforcement special fund can carry over at the end of the fiscal year; (2) increasing the cigarette tax stamp fee and by concurrently increasing the percentage of the cigarette tax stamp fee deposited to the tobacco enforcement special fund; and (3) amending the amount of funds to be deposited in the tobacco enforcement special fund from the Hawai'i tobacco settlement special fund.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 28-15, HRS, to allow the tobacco enforcement special fund to accumulate funds up to \$750,000 without the excess lapsing to the general fund.

Amends section 245-26, HRS, to increase the stamp fee from 1.7% to 2.2% of the value of tax stamps sold, and to route the additional 0.5% to the tobacco enforcement special fund.

Amends section 328L-2, HRS, to increase the earmark on tobacco settlement moneys to the tobacco enforcement special fund from \$350,000 to \$750,000 per fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an Administration bill sponsored by the Department of Attorney General and designated ATG-04 (23).

The question that should be asked is what the purpose of the tobacco tax is. If the goal is to make people stop smoking by making it cost-prohibitive to smoke, then (a) it's working, as hikes in the cigarette tax have begun to exert downward pressure on collections not only locally but also nationally, but (b) it shouldn't be expected to raise revenue, because of (a). If the goal is really to stop the behavior, why are we not banning it?

As the Foundation's previous President, Lowell Kalapa, wrote in the Tax Foundation of Hawaii's weekly commentary on October 28, 2012:

Lawmakers seem to have a simplistic reaction to solving problems the solution to which plagues their constituents – tax it.

Probably the best example is what people like to call sin taxes, those excise taxes that are levied on tobacco and alcohol products. After all, smoking causes cancer and alcohol causes all sorts of problems including driving under the influence. Lawmakers and



community advocates shake their heads and push for higher tax rates, arguing that making these products more expensive will deter folks from using these products.

The problem is that lawmakers also like the revenues that are generated from the sales of these products and, in some cases, they have tried to link the use and sale of these products with noble causes such as the funding of the Cancer Research Center that is currently being built. Again, the argument is that smokers should pay for programs and projects which seek to cure the related ill which in this case is cancer caused by smoking.

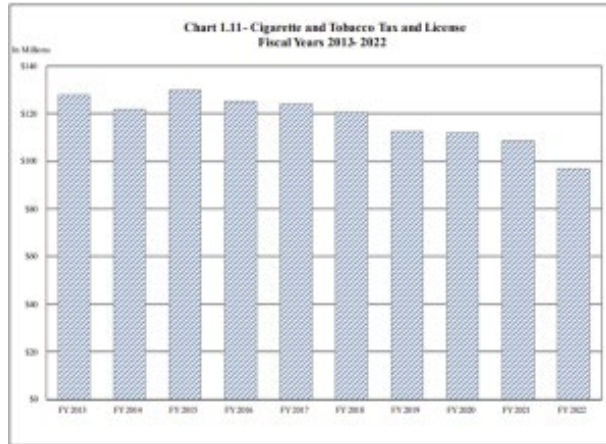
The irony is that arguments to increase the tax on tobacco and, more specifically, cigarettes, is a goal of getting smokers to quit while depending on the revenues from tobacco and cigarette taxes to fund an ongoing program, in this case the Cancer Research Center. So, which is it folks, stop smokers from smoking and if successful, there won't be any revenues to fund the Cancer Research Center?

The fact of the matter is that it appears that both locally and nationally, higher taxes on cigarettes are influencing smokers as tax collections on the sale of cigarettes have fallen. Certainly, some of the decline is due to smokers actually quitting, but to some degree one has to suspect that some purchases were made via mail order from exempt Indian reservation outlets while others may be what is called gray market purchases, that is from sources outside the country.

What should come as a surprise is that most of the folks who have quit are of some means as they are more likely to recognize the health hazard caused by use of this product. That means most of those who are still smoking are among the lower-income members of our community. Thus, the tax is regressive, generating less and less collections from middle and higher-income individuals.

Kalapa, "Finding the Blame for What Ails You," at <https://www.tfhawaii.org/wordpress/-blog/2012/10/finding-the-blame-for-what-ails-you/> (Oct, 28, 2012).

As predicted, programs that have been fed by earmarks from the tobacco tax, like the Cancer Research Center, have become a victim of the success of tobacco cessation programs and publicity. Revenues produced by the tobacco tax have been in steady decline over the past few years despite tax rate increases, and hoisting the smoking age to 21 in the 2015 session certainly didn't reverse the trend.



Source: Department of Taxation Annual Report (2021-2022), page 23.

Fiscal reliance on funds from a sin tax is inadvisable, perhaps outright dangerous. If the goal is to affect social behavior, use of the tax law is not the most effective way to do so.

Digested: 4/2/2023

**LATE**

**HB-982-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:48:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Zehner	Testifying for Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**THE Hawai'i Smokers Alliance opposes this bill. We need to reduce these regulations as much as possible and get the power of freedom of choice back to constituents. We recommend amending this bill to defund the tobacco enforcement unit and eliminate all the costly regulations that go with it. If you guys did that, lots of constituents that smoke and vape would be happy with you and only a tiny handful of anti-smoking lobbyists would be displeased.**

Thank you for your time.

**HB-982-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 12:54:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill is bad for business. Don't pass this.

**HB-982-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 1:13:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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**HB-982-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 10:52:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chris C.K. Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Alex Abe and I oppose this bill.

**HB-982-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 6:37:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clayton Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed. There is too much regulation already.