

Honolulu, Hawaii

JAN 31 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 441
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 441
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIGARETTE TAXES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to increase the cigarette tax
and allocate the increase to be deposited into the Hawaii Cancer
Research Special Fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of the Attorney General; Department of Health;
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center; Hawai'i Pacific Health; Hawaii
Substance Abuse Coalition; Hina Mauka; Hawai'i Primary Care
Association; The Queen's Health Systems; Hawaii Medical
Association; Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i; Campaign for
Tobacco-Free Kids; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network;
The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park; Hawaii COPD Coalition;
and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from the Cigar Association of America;
Retail Merchants of Hawaii; and five individuals. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from Department of Taxation; Tax
Foundation; Taxpayers Protection Alliance; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that cigarette smoking remains the
leading cause of preventable death nationally, and is linked to



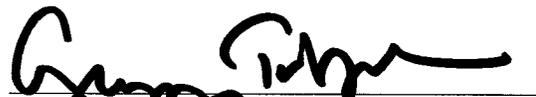
heart disease, cancer, and stroke. According to the United States Surgeon General, increasing the price of tobacco products is the single most effective way to reduce consumption. Your Committee further finds that the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center receives funding through revenues from the State's cigarette tax stamp. However, cigarette tax stamp revenues have been declining since 2015, resulting in fewer funds going to the Cancer Center. Your Committee believes that increasing taxes on cigarettes and little cigars, as proposed by this measure, will reduce tobacco consumption in the State and ensure the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center receives adequate funding to carry out its important work of building and launching strategic initiatives to combat cancer.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 441, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 441, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Higher Education.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREGG TAKAHAMA, Chair



