



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026
10:15 AM

Room Number: Conference Room 016
and Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of a ban on disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs)
2 in Hawaii would result in modest reductions in Hawaii's tax revenues while at the same time
3 leading to reductions in chronic diseases and health care spending, including Medicaid
4 spending, in the state.
- 5 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Bill 2121, House Draft 2,
6 Senate Draft 1 (H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, S.D. 1) which prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution
7 for sale of any disposable (ESDs) in the State.
- 8 **Department Testimony:** The environmental impact of disposable ESD consumption is alarming.
9 Appropriate handling guidelines are lacking, and most individuals have no other option but to
10 discard them in the regular trash.¹ This becomes dangerous because the lithium batteries are
11 prone to ignite and cause fires and the microplastics and chemicals inside the products can

¹ Truth Initiative. (2025, April). *Another reason to quit vaping? The environmental impact of e-cigarettes.*
<https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/another-reason-quit-vaping-environmental-impact-e>

1 leach into the environment after being littered or discarded in landfills.² In a 2024 study
2 conducted by the Truth Initiative, 53% of disposable ESD users aged 15-24 stated that they
3 threw their ESDs in the regular trash at a rate of about three per month.³

4 In 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restricted the sale of pod-based
5 ESDs, while exempting menthol and disposable ESD.⁴ As a result, use of disposable ESDs
6 increased over 1,000% between 2019 and 2020 among high school ESD users in the U.S.⁵ The
7 proportion of total ESD unit sales attributable to disposable ESDs increased from 26.0% to
8 56.5% between February 2020 and September 2025.⁶

9 At the same time disposable ESD sales soared, nicotine content in these products also
10 skyrocketed and prices lowered. According to the Truth Initiative, disposable ESDs in the U.S.
11 tripled in nicotine strength, quintupled in e-liquid capacity, and dropped in price by nearly 70%
12 between 2017 and 2022.⁷ The Environmental Protection Agency classifies nicotine e-liquids
13 contained in ESDs as acute hazardous waste that is toxic to people and the environment.^{8,9}
14 Besides nicotine, many ESDs contain other toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde, lead, and

² Truth Initiative. (2025, April). *Another reason to quit vaping? The environmental impact of e-cigarettes*.
<https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/another-reason-quit-vaping-environmental-impact-e>

³ Truth Initiative. (2024, July). *Not-so-disposable e-cigarettes: Young people grapple with e-cigarette waste amid lack of safe disposal options*. <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/not-so-disposable-e-cigarettes-young-people-grapple-e>

⁴ Public Health Law Center. (2020, January 15). *Much Ado About Nothing: FDA's Lackluster Effort to Restrict Flavors* | Public Health Law Center. <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/commentary/200108/much-ado-about-nothing-fdas-lackluster-effort-restrict-flavors>

⁵ Truth Initiative. (2025, April). *Another reason to quit vaping? The environmental impact of e-cigarettes*.
<https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/another-reason-quit-vaping-environmental-impact-e>

⁶ CDC Foundation. (2025, September). *E-Cigarette & Tobacco Monitoring and Research*. Monitoring Tobacco Product Use. <https://tobacomonitoring.org/>

⁷ Diaz, M. C., Silver, N. A., Bertrand, A., & Schillo, B. A. (2025). Bigger, stronger, and cheaper: Growth in e-cigarette market driven by disposable devices with more e-liquid, higher nicotine concentration and declining prices. *Tobacco Control*, 34(1), 65–70. <https://doi.org/10.1136/tc-2023-058033>

⁸ Federal Register/ Vol. 84, No. 36/ Friday, February 22, 2019/ Rules and Regulations (5816). [Environmental Protection Agency. 40 CFR. V. Amendment to the Acute Hazardous Waste Listing for Nicotine and Salts \(Hazardous Waste No. P075\)](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/02/22/2019-04113).

⁹ Environmental Protection Agency, *How to Safely Dispose of E-Cigarettes: Information for Individuals*. Accessed 3/17/2026: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/how-safely-dispose-e-cigarettes-information-individuals>

1 acrolein.^{10,11} Some ESDs are designed with built-in video games and Bluetooth speakers and
2 come in candy or fruity flavors to attract youth.¹² According to the CDC Foundation’s
3 Monitoring Tobacco Product Use project, these high-tech, alluring ESD products deemed
4 “disposable” due to their non-refillable nature, account for 93% or 6,400 of the recorded 6,800
5 ESD products available for sale in the U.S.¹³

6 ESDs are not benign for the environment or their users. In their assessment of current
7 scientific evidence published on March 30, 2026, Stewart and other researchers conclude that
8 ESDs are likely to increase the risk for oral and lung cancers.¹⁴ This is in addition to the growing
9 evidence that the risk of heart disease and stroke, and other diseases through ESDs and
10 cigarette use are similar.¹⁵

11 The DOH supports H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 and finds it compatible with the
12 comprehensive approach through H.B. 1573, H.D. 3, S.D. 1 which establishes the ESD Directory
13 and penalties under the Department of the Attorney General.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹⁰ Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/frequent-questions-about-management-standards-hazardous-waste-pharmaceuticals-and#nicotine>.

¹¹ Salazar et al., “Elevated Toxic Element Emissions from Popular Disposable E-Cigarettes: Sources, Life Cycle, and Health Risks.”

¹² Commissioner, O. of the. (2025, September 30). *A Statement From FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, M.D., M.P.H.: Encouraging Retailers to Stop Selling Illegal Vapes*. FDA. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-marty-makary-md-mph-encouraging-retailers-stop-selling-illegal-vapes>

¹³ CDC Foundation. (2025, September). *E-Cigarette & Tobacco Monitoring and Research*. Monitoring Tobacco Product Use. <https://tobacco-monitoring.org/>

¹⁴ Stewart, B. W., Marshall, H., Bonevski, B., Griffin, H. J., Hopkins, A. M., Itchins, M., Mazza, C. J., Modi, N. D., Ryan, M., Varlow, M., & Sitas, F. (2026). The carcinogenicity of e-cigarettes: A qualitative risk assessment. *Carcinogenesis*, 47(1), bgag015. <https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/bgag015>

¹⁵ Glantz, S. A., Nguyen, N., & Oliveira da Silva, A. L. (2024). Population-Based Disease Odds for E-Cigarettes and Dual Use versus Cigarettes. *NEJM Evidence*, 3(3), EVIDoA2300229. <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDoA2300229>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2121 HD2 SD1

TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: April 7, 2026 (10:15 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 2121 HD2 SD1, which prohibits the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

Americans discard hundreds of thousands of e-cigarettes every day, adding up to 150 million e-cigarettes annually. They usually end up in the household trash, against [EPA recommendations](#). This creates a risk of lithium battery fires when the batteries are crushed or exposed to heat in garbage trucks and waste facilities. E-cigarettes contain high concentrations of nicotine which can leach into environment along with the chemicals found in the batteries.

As well, many disposable e-cigarettes end up as litter on roadsides, parks, and even in the ocean. The plastic, metals, batteries, and high nicotine concentration found in e-cigarettes are non-biodegradable and are harmful to people and wildlife, particularly when they find their way into aquatic environments. Please pass SB2175 to protect the health of the people and environment in Hawai'i.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions.

With the ongoing support of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, HHRC continues to offer smoking cessation services that are tailored to meet the needs of our state's LGBTQ+ people, and other priority populations through its [Hawai'i's Last Drag](#) (HLD) program. We work with individuals in ways that are most appropriate for their current needs, with trainings conducted in person or via phone, text, or videoconferencing. We provide smoking cessation products to assist them with quitting the consumption of smoked tobacco and other nicotine products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

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Hawaiian Research Office

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, MBA
Retired, Hawai'i State Department of
Health

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: April 1, 2026

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

Re: Strong Support for HB 2121 HD2 SD1, Relating to Waste Management

Hrg: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:15 AM, Room 016

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **Strong Support of HB 2121 HD2 SD1**, which would end the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

Tobacco-related disease continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, resulting in 480,000 deaths annually,² with 1,400 of those deaths happening each year in Hawai'i.³ 95% of adult cigarette smokers started before they turned 21 years of age,⁴ so it's clear that to eliminate the harms of tobacco in our society, we need to prevent youth from ever starting.

For the past ten years, Hawai'i's middle and high school students have been reporting high prevalence rates for electronic smoking devices, with current use for middle school students at 10%, and 13% for high school students.⁵ The problem has now become an issue at many of our elementary schools across the state. Sales of disposable electronic devices grew by 500% between 2019 and 2023, making them the most common type of device among young people.⁶

Please Pass with an Effective Date

Thankfully a similar measure, SB 2175, already passed through this committee and the Senate chamber. The House and Senate are aligned in support of this bill and we would like for it to pass with an effective date.

Bad for health.

Nicotine is a highly addictive drug, and can impact the developing brains of adolescents and young adults. A 2024 CDC Foundation report found that disposable e-cigarettes have nicotine levels similar to several cartons of cigarettes, with average nicotine strength increasing 294 percent between 2019 and 2023.⁵ Additionally, a 2025 study from UC Riverside found popular disposable electronic smoking devices expose users to hazardous levels of neurotoxic lead and carcinogenic nickel and antimony.⁷

Bad for the environment.

Disposable, single-use electronic smoking devices are a public health hazard. These products are made of non-biodegradable plastic containing nicotine and



other hazardous chemicals, metals, wiring, and a lithium-ion battery. According to a 2023 study, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable electronic devices every second, nearly 500,000 per day.⁸ Over a year, this amounts to 150 million devices, creating a huge amount of hazardous waste.

No good place to dispose of “disposable” e-cigarettes.

There are no easy or safe ways to dispose of or recycle e-cigarettes, leaving most residents to put them in the trash bin.⁹ This results in our landfills and H-Power having to deal with them. The toxic chemicals then leach into our environment and lithium-ion batteries risk catching fire.¹⁰ These microplastics and leached chemicals then are a danger to our land and animals, with microplastics ending up in our streams, and even in our bodies.¹¹ We can end this threat by removing these products from our state altogether.

Opportunity for state action.

With federal regulations lacking enforcement, state and local governments are left to establish their own standards. Hawai'i can prohibit the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices within the state, protecting our keiki and preserving our 'āina. There is growing support for this, according to an independent poll conducted by Ward Research in the Fall of 2025 on behalf of the Coalition, 81% of registered Hawai'i voters support a law that would prohibit the sale of all disposable electronic smoking devices.¹²

We applaud the Legislature for helping to protect the health of our community and our environment by considering this measure, and thank this committee for your consideration of HB 2121 HD2 SD1.

We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin Ramirez'.

Kevin Ramirez
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Program Manager
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

1 The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) that is 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.

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, May 4). *Burden of cigarette use in the U.S.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html>

3 *The toll of tobacco in Hawaii.* Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (2025, December 15).

<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

4 U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2024, August 29). *FDA issues final rule increasing the minimum age for certain restrictions on tobacco sales.* U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-final-rule-increasing-minimum-age-certain-restrictions-tobacco-sales>

5 Hawai'i Health Matters. (n.d.). *Tobacco Prevention & Control 2030 Tracker*. Hawaii.
<https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?alias=Tobacco2030>

6 CDC Foundation. (2024, November 24). As National Sales of E-Cigarettes Climb, Report Shows that State Restrictions on Flavored Products Are Critical to Protect Young People.
<https://www.cdcfoundation.org/pr/2024/Monitoring-E-Cigarette-Trends-in-the-United-States-Report>

7 Salazar, M. R., Saina, L., Nguyen, T. B., Pinkerton, K. E., Madl, A. K., Cole, A. M., & Poulin, B. A. (2025, June 25). *Elevated toxic element emissions from popular disposable e-cigarettes: Sources, life cycle, and Health Risks* | ACS Central Science. ACS Publications. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acscentsci.5c00641>

8 FY26 Vape Waste Report 2. (n.d.).
<https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PIRG-Vape-Waste-2.pdf>

9 Lithium-ion Battery Disposal. Department of Health. September 25, 2025.
https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/files/2025/11/FINAL_Residents-Lithium-Ion-Info-Sheet.pdf

10 HFD: Lithium-ion battery fires are on the rise. KHON. January 10, 2026.
<https://www.khon2.com/hawaii-fires/hfd-lithium-ion-battery-fires/>

11 Microplastics and our health: What the science says. Stanford Medicine. January 29, 2025.
<https://med.stanford.edu/news/insights/2025/01/microplastics-in-body-polluted-tiny-plastic-fragments.html>

12 This study by Ward Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a telephone/online survey among n=741 Hawai'i registered voters (maximum sampling error +/- 3.7%), conducted between October 3 to November 1, 2025.



TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAI'I

**IN OPPOSITION (WITH COMMENTS) TO HB 2121, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
Decision Making Only

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dave Erdman, and I serve as Interim President and CEO of Retail Merchants of Hawai'i (RMH), a statewide nonprofit trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, and allied businesses across Hawai'i.

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i respectfully offers comments in opposition to HB 2121, HD2, SD1.

We understand and acknowledge the public health concerns often associated with disposable electronic smoking devices, particularly regarding youth usage and nicotine addiction. These are important issues. However, this measure is framed primarily as a waste management policy, and RMH respectfully focuses its comments on the waste and disposal implications addressed in the bill.

The measure identifies lithium batteries, plastics, and electronic components as environmental concerns. While these concerns are valid, disposable electronic smoking devices represent only one category within a much broader stream of consumer products that contain lithium batteries and similar materials. Flashlights, small emergency devices, portable fans, toys, remote controls, and other common household items—particularly those used during storms and power outages—contain the same types of batteries and components and present similar disposal challenges.

Hawai'i currently does not have a comprehensive, convenient, and widely accessible statewide system for consumer battery recycling or small electronic waste disposal. Without

such infrastructure, prohibiting a single product category may not meaningfully reduce overall battery waste and may instead shift the broader disposal issue to other consumer products.

This type of product-specific prohibition has been seen in other policy areas. For example, plastic bag bans reduced use of one item but did not materially reduce the broader plastic waste stream. Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services has reported that plastic bags accounted for approximately 0.1 percent of the overall waste stream, meaning the ban addressed only a narrow portion of total plastic waste. Similarly, **banning one category of battery-powered consumer products may not significantly reduce overall lithium battery waste without a comprehensive disposal and recycling framework.**

In addition, **Hawai'i law already prohibits the sale of electronic smoking devices to individuals under the age of 21.** If youth access remains a concern, strengthening enforcement of existing age restrictions may be a more targeted approach. Licensed retailers are required to verify age and operate within regulated frameworks, while prohibitions may unintentionally shift purchases to unregulated channels where age verification and product safety controls are more limited.

From a retail perspective, this measure would eliminate a product category currently sold through licensed businesses that comply with existing laws and regulations. Policymakers may wish to consider whether a product-specific ban addresses waste management goals, or whether a broader battery and electronic waste strategy would be more effective.

RMH respectfully suggests consideration of a more comprehensive waste management approach, which could include:

- statewide battery recycling and disposal infrastructure
- consistent disposal standards for all lithium battery consumer products
- public education on battery and small electronics disposal
- retailer-supported take-back or recycling programs
- enhanced enforcement of existing age restriction laws

A broader framework addressing all consumer lithium battery products may better achieve the environmental objectives identified in this measure while maintaining regulatory consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **Opposition to HB 2121 HD2, SD 1.**



HB2121 HD2 SD1 End Disposable E-Cig

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Apr 7, 2026: 10:15 Room 016 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2121 HD2 SD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services.

The vaping epidemic is skyrocketing, in part because of disposable e-cigarettes (ESD).

This is concerning because:

1. The **nicotine concentrations** in disposable e-cigarettes have **tripled** in recent years.
2. Disposable e-cigarettes are **leaching toxic materials into our environmental resulting in a crisis** in Hawai'i . These products contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries.
3. Without environmental safeguards, people, especially youth, discard ESDs into the trash, which is **dangerous because the lithium batteries are prone to ignite and cause fires and the microplastics and chemicals inside the products can leach into the environment after being littered or discarded in landfills.**
4. **EPA classifies ESD as acute hazardous waste** that is toxic to people and the environment.
5. **Despite many of these type of products becoming illegal in the United States, ESDs remain accessible** in our communities, unless we implement stricter policy actions.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



April 3, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB2121 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING
DEVICES

Hrg: Apri 7, 2026 at 10:15AM

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of our people and our environment. These devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment. They also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai'i for us all.

The Hawaii Public Health Association urges you to support HB2121 HD2 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Re: **HB2121 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Waste Management**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
April 7, 2026, 10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB2121 HD2 SD1**. This bill prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State and establishes penalties, beginning 1/1/2027.

Hawai'i has some of the highest youth e-cigarette use rates in the nation, with more than 1 in 4 (29%) of high school and 1 in 6 (17%) of middle school students having tried e-cigarettes.¹ Flavored e-cigarettes play a major role in attracting young users, and Hawai'i was recently given a grade of "F" in the ending of the sale of all flavored tobacco products by the American Lung Association.²

In the past, Hawai'i' was a national leader in tobacco regulation, pioneering policies such as raising the tobacco sales age to 21 and passing a comprehensive smoke-free air law.³

In the absence of federal regulation, our state should take the lead again and ban the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i, in order to better protect our children and youth and reduce smoking-related harm in their communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html

² <https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/fy26-sotc-hawaii>

³ <https://www.hiphi.org/tobacco/>

Testimony of Daniel Nitta, MPH (Community Health Sciences)

On behalf of Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) and the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Youth Council

In Strong Support of H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

Relating to Waste Management

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel Nitta, and I testify on behalf of HIPHI in strong support of H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

This issue is deeply personal to me. I lost my father to smoking. From an early age, I experienced second-hand smoke exposure and the stress of repeated health emergencies before ultimately losing him. That loss has stayed with me throughout my life.

Beyond public health concerns, disposable e-cigarettes represent a growing environmental and waste management concern. These products contain residual e-liquid consisting of a complex mixture of chemicals—including nicotine, flavoring agents, and other additives—that can leach into the environment when improperly discarded. These chemicals can persist in ecosystems and pose ecological risks^{1,2}. One study identified 421 unique chemicals in e-liquids, including carcinogens and toxic substances that threaten both environmental and human health².

Research shows that exposure to e-cigarette waste can significantly harm plant life, reducing biomass by up to 30% and negatively affecting root growth¹. Improper disposal is widespread, allowing toxic substances such as nicotine, heavy metals, and other chemicals to enter ecosystems. These substances have been shown to disrupt biological development, including bone, cartilage, and vascular formation in exposed organisms³.

More broadly, e-cigarettes add to the growing global e-waste burden and contribute to pollution across land, water, and air systems⁴. Globally, 53.2 million metric tons of e-waste were generated in 2019 and are projected to reach 74.7 million metric tons by 2030⁴. Tobacco product waste, including e-cigarettes, is among the most littered items worldwide and releases toxic chemicals and plastics into the environment, contributing to pollution and cleanup burdens in communities⁵.

The people of Hawai'i should never be exposed to these kinds of environmental health threats, and this measure is a critical step in protecting our communities and environment.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

Daniel Nitta

Daniel Nitta, MPH

References

- [1] Boots, B., Green, D. S., Wright, A. C., Olah-Kovacs, B., & Tovey, L. (2024). *Ecotoxicological effects of leachate from e-cigarettes and e-liquid on the performance of perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne)*. *Environmental Pollution*, 348, 123888.
- [2] Venugopal, P. D., Addo Ntim, S., Goel, R., Reilly, S. M., Brenner, W., & Hanna, S. K. (2024). *Environmental persistence, bioaccumulation, and hazards of chemicals in e-cigarette e-liquids: short-listing chemicals for risk assessments*. *Tobacco Control*, 33(6), 781–789.
- [3] Bhattacharya, B., Narain, V., & Bondesson, M. (2021). *E-cigarette vaping liquids and the flavoring chemical cinnamaldehyde perturb bone, cartilage, and vascular development in zebrafish embryos*. *Aquatic Toxicology*, 240, 105995.
- [4] Ngambo, G., Hanna, E. G., Gannon, J., Marcus, H., Lomazzi, M., & Azari, R. (2023). *A scoping review on e-cigarette environmental impacts*. *Tobacco Prevention & Cessation*, 9, 30.
- [5] Leestma, M., Novotny, T. E., Shadbegian, R., Schneider, J., Lam, J., Lopez-Galvez, N., & Williams, R. J. (2025). *Tobacco product waste cleanups and costs*. *Discover Environment*, 3(1), 43.

LATE

Date: March 2, 2026

To: Chair Senator Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Senator Mike Gabbard
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Members of the University of Hawai'i Student Health Advisory Council

Re: Strong Support for HB2121 Relating to Disposable Electronic E-Cigarette Devices

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 10:15am CR 016

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2121. The University of Hawai'i 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, especially amongst adolescents and young adults. As a result, we are in strong support of a ban on the sale of all disposable electronic smoking devices.

Disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis of severe environmental pollution and public health risks. These single-use devices, which are often used by youth and young adults, contain lithium-ion batteries, toxic heavy metals and high levels of nicotine. Disposable electronic cigarettes are not recyclable and contain hazardous components which leach into Hawai'i's ecosystems and contribute to plastic pollution, landfill fires, and toxic chemicals in our waterways and in the ocean.

According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, at least five disposable electronic cigarettes are thrown away every second in the United States, amounting to 150 million devices per year. The local and global impact of the world's increasing waste stream is clearly unsustainable and detrimental to the environmental integrity and public health of the State of Hawai'i.

The Student Health Advisory Council urges you to support this measure which will protect the health of our people, environment, and the future of Hawai'i. We recognize your committees' commitment to well-being and ask you to help create a safer Hawai'i for all.

Mahalo from the Student Health Advisory Council

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:50:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

We stand on our previous testimony in opposition to this anti-small business bill. This awful bill will destroy vape shops in Hawaii.

Hawaii Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

LATE

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (HAAP) would like to provide testimony in **strong support of HB 2121 HD2 SD1**, which would ban disposable vape products from being sold in Hawai'i starting in 2027. Not only is tobacco harmful to those who use it in any form, but disposable vapes pose unique risks to children and the environment. The lithium-ion batteries in the vapes pose a fire hazard when improperly disposed, which is thought to be the vast majority of the time. Additionally, the batteries, plastics, and toxic chemicals contained in the vape liquid residue of a disposable vape device risk leaching toxic chemicals not only into the bodies of adolescents who are still developing, but also into the environment.

As pediatricians, we have witnessed increasing numbers of youth who become addicted to nicotine because of bright packaging, youth-targeted messaging, and flavors that are especially appealing to youth. The colorful packaging, fruity flavors, and misconception that vaping is less harmful than cigarettes only serve to obscure the truth, which is that tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable deaths and that tobacco use reduces the average smoker's life expectancy by about a decade. The youth vaping epidemic continues to worsen, with more than 13% of high schoolers and 10% of middle schoolers in Hawai'i reporting using e-cigarettes (2023 data). As you may know, vape liquid contains high levels of nicotine, making it more addictive than cigarettes; this is in addition to dozens of other dangerous chemicals that can seriously harm a young person's lungs.

More than 200 pediatrician members of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics support measures that can help to fight the youth vaping epidemic and protect the environment from increased waste. We have seen first-hand the harmful impacts of nicotine addiction in our adolescent patients, and we have seen discarded vapes washed up on our beaches, polluting the environment. For both these reasons, we strongly urge your support of HB2121 HD2 SD1.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

On behalf of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 2:45:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| William Caron | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB2121, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State of Hawai‘i. This bill is a necessary step to protect our environment, our keiki, and our communities from a product designed for planned obsolescence and environmental harm.

The Environmental Crisis of Disposable Vapes

Disposable electronic smoking devices are, by design, single-use products. They contain plastic casings, lithium-ion batteries, nicotine, and heavy metals—all encased in a device intended to be thrown away after a few days of use. These products cannot be recycled through ordinary household waste streams. Instead, they end up in our landfills, our incinerators, and, all too often, as litter in our oceans and shorelines.

The environmental toll is staggering. The lithium-ion batteries inside these devices are not meant to be removed or recycled by consumers. When discarded, they become hazardous waste, leaching toxic chemicals into the ground and posing fire risks at waste facilities. The plastic components contribute to the microplastic pollution choking our marine ecosystems. And the nicotine residue left in discarded devices is toxic to wildlife and children alike.

A Problem of Design

Unlike refillable or rechargeable vaping devices, disposables are engineered to be used once and thrown away. There is no "off" switch for their environmental impact. They represent the worst of planned obsolescence—a product designed not for longevity or sustainability, but for rapid consumption and disposal. In a state already grappling with a solid waste crisis and the urgent need to protect our marine environment, the last thing we need is another source of non-recyclable, single-use waste.

HB2121 addresses this problem at its source: the point of sale. By prohibiting the sale of these devices, we stop the flow of new disposables into our communities and send a clear message that Hawai‘i will not be a market for environmentally destructive, single-use products.

Protecting Our Keiki

Disposable vapes are also a primary driver of youth nicotine addiction. Their low cost, colorful packaging, and ease of concealment have made them the entry point of choice for young people experimenting with vaping. A product that is designed to be used and thrown away is also a product that is designed to be shared, passed around, and hidden. By removing disposables from the market, we remove a major vector for youth initiation into nicotine use.

The Bigger Picture

HB2121 is not an anti-smoking bill; it is an anti-waste, pro-environment, pro-keiki bill. It recognizes that the proliferation of disposable vapes creates harms that extend far beyond the user. These harms are borne by our 'āina, our wai, our sanitation workers, and our children who mistake discarded devices for toys. The companies that manufacture and sell these devices externalize these costs onto our communities and our environment. HB2121 says: that ends now.

A Cleaner, Healthier Hawai'i

By passing HB2121, we take a stand against single-use culture and for a cleaner, healthier Hawai'i. We protect our environment from another stream of hazardous, non-recyclable waste. We reduce the availability of products designed to addict our keiki. And we affirm that in Hawai'i, we value sustainability over disposability.

I urge this committee to pass HB2121 and rid our state of these harmful, single-use devices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:10:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:13:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

According to the Hawaii Public Health Institute:

Disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis of severe environmental pollution and public health risks. Approximately 5 disposable e-cigarettes are thrown away every second in the U.S., totaling over 150 million annually.

These single-use devices, often used by youth, contain lithium-ion batteries, toxic heavy metals (like lead and nickel), and nicotine, which leach into ecosystems.

Date: April 1, 2026

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB2121 HD2 SD1, Relating to Waste Management

Hrg: Tue April 7, 2026 at 10:15 am Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee on Judiciary,

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in strong support of HB2121 HD2 SD1, which prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of our people and communities.

These devices contain dangerous plastics, heavy metals, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment raising concerns about their impact on water quality and aquatic life.

Current generation disposable cigarettes contain significantly higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations, leading to high addiction rates amongst users, including our children and teens.

I strongly support HB2121 HD2 SD1, respectfully ask you to pass it out of committee to help create a safer Hawai'i for all of us.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:20:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Donita Garcia | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

- In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 million e-cigarettes every second, nearly 500,000 per day.
- The debris created by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns for researchers, noting potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic life due to plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine.
- Disposable e-cigarettes have higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes.
- Disposable e-cigarettes contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:22:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ann Kishi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of our people and our environment. These devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment. They also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai'i for us all.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:34:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Michele Nihipali | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

- Please support HB 2121
- [In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable e-cigarettes every second, adding up to nearly 500,000 per day, resulting in 150 million per year .](#)
- The debris created by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns for researchers, noting potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic life due to plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine.
- Disposable e-cigarettes have higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes.
- Disposable e-cigarettes contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards.
- Thank you for your consideration,
- Michele Nihipali
- 54-074 A Kam Hwy.
- Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:51:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bob Grossmann, PhD | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Passing this measure will reduce several costly burdens on personal health of youth, the environment and overall health costs.

Nicotine can affect the brain function of teens, and lead to addiction.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 5:47:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Inam Rahman | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT WITH IMPLEMENTATION SAFEGUARDS

HB 2121 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO DISPOSABLE E-CIGARETTES

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Inam Rahman, MD, a physician and long-time resident of West O‘ahu. I am writing in strong support of HB 2121 HD2 SD1.

As a physician, I am increasingly concerned about the rapid rise of nicotine addiction among our youth. Disposable e-cigarettes are uniquely dangerous—they are inexpensive, flavored, easy to conceal, and specifically designed in ways that appeal to young users. I have seen how quickly experimentation turns into dependence, affecting not only physical health but also concentration, behavior, and long-term well-being.

At the same time, this is not just a public health issue—it is an environmental crisis. These single-use devices contain lithium-ion batteries, nicotine residue, and toxic heavy metals such as lead and nickel. Once discarded, they leach into our soil and waterways, threatening our fragile island ecosystems and ultimately impacting the health of our communities.

Hawai‘i’s geography makes this problem even more urgent. On an island, waste accumulates—it does not disappear. What is thrown away today often returns through our land, our ocean, and our food chain. Protecting our keiki and our ‘āina must remain a shared responsibility.

This bill is a common-sense, preventive measure that addresses both youth addiction and environmental harm at the source. By prohibiting the sale of disposable e-cigarettes, we reduce

access, decrease hazardous waste, and take a meaningful step toward protecting future generations.

To strengthen implementation, I respectfully recommend:

- Clear enforcement mechanisms to prevent illegal sales and distribution
- Public education efforts, particularly targeting youth and parents
- Coordination with environmental agencies for safe disposal of existing products

These practical steps will ensure that the intent of this legislation translates into real-world impact.

In medicine, prevention is always better than treatment. This bill reflects that principle—acting early to avoid long-term harm.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2121 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Warm regards,

Dr. Inam Rahman, MD

Waipahū, O‘ahu

Physician | Community Advocate

inamr01@gmail.com

HB 2121

Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

I am writing as a retired Kauai pediatrician and concerned citizen to strongly support SHB 2121 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes, or “vapes.” Disposables are made by design to be indestructible and nonrefillable, despite incredibly strong lithium batteries, and have been marketed especially toward our youth, who are the predominant users. There are very few “safe” waste receptacles, no packaging instructions on how to dispose of them, and studies have shown that users are unaware of how they should be disposed of. The lithium batteries are a fire hazard and have started fires even in waste facilities at significant cost to communities.

The debris has a significant negative impact on our water quality and aquatic life: The plastic, which is nondegradable, breaks down into microplastics, there are heavy metals such as lead, mercury, and nickel entering our ecosystems, and the nicotine concentrations are higher than ever and have unknown consequences on both plants and animals.

To put this into perspective, in 2023 about 500,000 disposable e-cigs were discarded PER DAY in the US. It is impossible for beach cleanups to make a dent in this problem. The effects on our island ecosystems are potentially catastrophic. I urge you to eliminate this scourge from our very special island environment by passing HB2121.

Respectfully,

Linda Weiner, MD

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:34:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scott Stensrud | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2121 HD2 SD1. Disposable e-cigarettes are single-use plastic items that negatively impact our environment. They leach heavy metals, toxic chemicals and plastics into our fragile environment, create wild fire hazards in our islands and fires in our solid waste facilities.

There is no way to properly dispose of these items in our state and by ending their sale we protect our aquifer, reduce microplastics, and protect against wildfires. Please pass HB 2121 HD2 SD1

April 7, 2026

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB2121, HD2, SD1 “Relating to Waste Management.”

Disposable e-cigarettes have quickly become one of the most popular illegal nicotine devices used by our keiki and young people. In addition to serving as a way to hook our children at early ages on nicotine (which can also lead to increasing their vulnerability to other potentially deadly addictions, and to leading health risks such as cardiovascular disease, Hawaii’s leading cause of death and disability), as outlined in section 1 of the bill, these devices contain a plethora of chemicals and dangerous metals. They are deemed “hazardous waste” by the Hawaii Department of Health, and as such should be disposed of only in manners dictated by the DOH Hazardous Waste Division. They should not be disposed of in household waste or carelessly discarded in ways that could harm Hawaii’s fragile environment or aquifers.

Unfortunately, many are being discarded in our landfills and/or public spaces. Many, if not most of the disposable e-cigarette products being sold are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as safe for sale or consumption and are therefore on the market illegally. Because of recent cuts to the FDA’s Tobacco Control and Prevention Program by the current administration, the need to regulate those products falls is falling on state and local legislators to protect their constituents and environments.

I urge you to support HB 2121, HD2, SD1 with an effective date of January 1, 2027 to help reign in the illegal sale and use of those products and to support the Hawaii Attorney General’s office in enforcing against their illegal sale to minors.

Mahalo for your attention to this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman
Kailua, HI

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 11:45:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| An Vo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is An and I'm a college public health student on O'ahu. I'm testifying in strong support of HB2121 HD2 SD1 to end the sale of disposable vapes.

I grew up on O'ahu and attended public schools from preschool to high school. When my dad smoked around the house when I was young, I breathed his secondhand smoke and developed asthma. If I didn't breathe my inhaler when I had trouble breathing every night, I would've died.

When I walk outside, I see litter and vapes. Animals eat vapes which are littered in the ocean, making sea critters die. Our food contains microplastics and heavy metals from the lithium batteries in vapes as a result of bioaccumulation.

Our youth and adults are currently letting Big Tobacco shape our health and our future. Lawmakers have a responsibility to protect public health and environmental health by banning tobacco and vapes. Public health means making O'ahu the best place to live, learn, work, grow, and play. I hope future keiki and kupuna will not have to deal with tobacco, breathing difficulties caused by tobacco, or lose loved ones to tobacco.

I urge you to support HB2121 HD2 SD1 to end the sale of disposable vapes. Mahalo for caring about Hawai'i's keiki and kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa,
An Vo
Honolulu, HI

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2121 HD2 SD1
Relating to Waste Management
Senate Judiciary Committee
April 7, 2026

Aloha Chair and Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I write in strong support of HB2121 HD2 SD1, which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i leading to a reduction environmental pollution and waste management costs.

Disposable e-cigarettes are the definition of a short-term product creating long-term harm. Designed to be used briefly and thrown away, they leave behind lasting damage—to our keiki, our ‘āina, and our communities. In 2023 alone, Americans discarded an estimated 5.7 million e-cigarettes every second, nearly 500,000 every day. These devices do not simply disappear. They end up on sidewalks, beaches, school grounds, and in our oceans.

Each disposable e-cigarette contains plastic that will never biodegrade, lithium-ion batteries that pose fire risks, and toxic substances like nicotine and heavy metals. Researchers are increasingly concerned about the impact of this waste on water quality and aquatic life, something that should deeply matter to an island state that depends on clean water and healthy ecosystems. The idea that these hazardous materials are being casually discarded—often by youth—is alarming.

Just as troubling is the impact on public health. Disposable e-cigarettes often contain higher concentrations of nicotine than earlier products, increasing the risk of addiction. Their low cost, sweet flavors, and colorful designs make them especially attractive to young people. We are seeing prevention efforts undermined by products engineered to hook users quickly and then be tossed aside, with no accountability for the damage left behind.

Hawai‘i has always taken pride in protecting its people and its environment. HB2121 HD2 SD1 aligns with those values. Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes is not about limiting choice—it is about choosing responsibility, protecting youth from addiction, safeguarding our natural resources, and reducing preventable harm.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB2121 HD2 SD1 and take a meaningful step toward a healthier future for Hawai‘i’s keiki and ‘āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support.

Dr. Colleen Fox, Makiki

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:21:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jay Ihara | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Jay Ihara, and I strongly support HB2121 HD2 SD1

In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 million e-cigarettes every second, amounting to nearly 500,000 every day. The waste generated by disposable e-cigarettes has raised concerns among researchers regarding its potential impact on water quality and aquatic life. This waste contains plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine. Additionally, disposable e-cigarettes have higher nicotine concentrations compared to previous generations of e-cigarettes. The non-biodegradable plastics and lithium-ion batteries in these devices can leach harmful chemicals and pose fire hazards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:23:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rick Collins | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this very important legislation. It not only helps the environment but will save lives. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:48:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kristin Mills | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident in Pukalani Maui, a parent, and a health educator, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2121 HD2 SD1, which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Electronic Cigarette Devices (ESDs) are not only harmful to humans but are especially harmful to our youth and to our environment. They include higher levels of nicotine compared to previous devices, contributing to high numbers of youth becoming addicted to nicotine. Once addicted to nicotine, it is hard to quit. And this addiction leads to a lot of health problems in the lungs, other organs of the body, and the brain. It negatively affects learning, memory, mental health, mood, and a whole list of physical health issues.

For the environment, disposable ESD waste is a rising concern. In 2023 alone, about 500,000 disposable ESDs were disposed **EVERY DAY**. All this debris, including plastics, metals, batteries, and nicotine, potentially negatively affect our earth, water, and aquatic life. And as a reminder, these products, made of plastic and metal, are non-biodegradable. So, they accumulate in our environment every single day. And as they include lithium batteries, they leach harmful chemicals into our environment, which also raises risk for fires.

Our youth's health and the health of our earth is very important to me. Please support HB2121 HD2 SD1 and be part of the solution to help keep our youth and our environment safer from the health risks of disposable e-cigarettes.

Thank you,

Kristin Mills

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:05:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of HB2121. These cigarettes are hazardous to health and the environment. I should know. As someone with lung issues, breathing gets hard if someone smoking passes me. Health should be a right to have. Smoking should not. In addition, the disposal of lithium iron batteries is a danger to the environment.

Please move this bill forward, for the kupuna, the keiki, the and environment.

Lynne Matusow

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:08:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Galloway | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please do the right thing for our 'aina and kids!



Chair - Senator Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair - Senator Mike Gabbard
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

On behalf of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i's (CTFH) Youth Council, thank you for allowing us to submit testimony **in strong support of HB2121.**

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 middle school, high school, and college students, with representation from across Hawai'i's counties.

Hawai'i is facing a youth vaping epidemic. Disposable e-cigarettes have become especially popular among teens because they are cheap, widely available, and easy to use. Disposable e-cigarettes also have higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes. Despite many of these products being illegal in the United States, they remain accessible in our communities, demonstrating the urgent need for policy action.

In addition to harming youth health, disposable e-cigarettes are creating an environmental crisis in Hawai'i. These devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment. Currently, there is no standardized way to recycle disposable e-cigarettes in the United States, resulting in toxic materials leaching into the environment.

During a CTFH Youth Council beach cleanup, members collected a staggering number of cigarette butts along Hawai'i's shoreline. While the Youth Council initially observed less visible e-cigarette waste, we later learned that many disposable e-cigarette components do not float to the surface. Instead, they sink into the sand and ocean floor, where they release toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and nicotine residue. This hidden pollution threatens aquatic life and contaminates our marine ecosystems.

The lithium-ion batteries inside disposable e-cigarettes also pose serious safety risks to our communities. When improperly discarded, these batteries can overheat, rupture, or ignite under high pressure and heat, creating dangerous conditions in waste facilities.

At Hawai'i's H-POWER facility, battery-related fires and explosions have slowed operations, damaged equipment, and put workers at risk. H-power has shared with us that In 2024, they had

158 fires total, with 44 being lithium-related. And because these batteries are so small and powerful, stopping them before they enter H-POWER is our best bet for keeping the plant operational and staff safe.

Members of the CTFH Youth Council have also witnessed disposable e-cigarettes catching fire unexpectedly, with some youth experiencing burns and close calls as a result. These incidents demonstrate that disposable e-cigarettes are not only harmful to health and the environment, but also present immediate physical dangers.

Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of our people and our environment. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai'i for us all.

Mahalo,
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Youth Council

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:43:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shani Carvalho | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Shani "Kai" Carvalho and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2121 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. As a Tobacco Treatment Specialist I see how it affects adults and youth who use disposable e-cigarettes and the addiction that comes with it causing harm on their bodies. However not only are disposable e-cigarettes harmful to our kino (body) but it also brings harm to our honua (earth). Everyday hundreds of thousands of e-cigarettes are being discarded in the US alone all of which have non-biodegradable plastics that are infiltrating our 'āina. We see these devices in the grass at our parks, on the beach, in the ocean, where it can cause great danger to our sea creatures as well. Please help us protect our land, oceans and our earth by ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. Mahalo.

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 9:29:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Katie Folio | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2121 HD2 SD1.

Passage of this bill will help protect both the environment and the health of Hawai'i's people. We have already seen the lasting impact of tobacco product waste, as cigarette butts remain the most common form of plastic pollution worldwide. We should not repeat this mistake with electronic smoking devices, which introduce additional plastic, batteries, and hazardous components into our waste stream.

Hawai'i's unique ecosystems are especially vulnerable. We have the opportunity to act now, before this problem escalates further, and prevent avoidable environmental harm.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important legislation.

Katie Folio
Kula, Maui resident

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:07:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bryan Mih | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

As a parent, pediatrician, and medical director of the Kapi'olani Smokefree Families Program, I strongly support this bill, which ends the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has strongly supported elimination of disposable e-cigarettes. These products have been shown to be disproportionately used by young people, and make it easier to start using tobacco and nicotine. They also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users. In addition, disposable e-cigarettes are made of plastics and contain toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment.

Hawaii has one of the highest rates of middle schoolers (16%) and high schoolers (26%) currently using e-cigarettes—it is twice the national average. Nicotine is a highly addictive drug that impacts the adolescent brain, reducing impulse control and affecting mood. Those who use e-cigarettes are four times more likely to smoke regular cigarettes later on. The e-cigarette industry claims these are cessation devices, but a recent study has shown that even if one adult can quit with these devices, the trade-off is 81 young people who will start the habit in their place. This is completely unacceptable.

Once young people are addicted to nicotine, it is extremely difficult to quit. By eliminating these products from Hawaii, we have the chance to improve the health of many, especially of our keiki.

On behalf of the keiki and young people of Hawaii, I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP

Pediatrician

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:04:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Ball | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To the members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my full support for HB2121, which is one necessary step to protect Hawaii's keiki from the public health plague of electronic smoking devices. As a teacher of teenagers, I have heard too many stories of parents' distress at the explicit marketing tactics used by tobacco companies to hook kids on these devices. Prohibiting these devices will ensure they stay out of the reach of many kids while simultaneously protecting our waste disposal infrastructure. I urge the Committee to advance this necessary bill.

With aloha,

Dave Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 8:08:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| John A. H. Tomoso | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

04-04-26

RE:HB2121 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai,

I am concerned that disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis of severe environmental pollution and public health risks. These single-use devices, often used by youth, contain lithium-ion batteries, toxic heavy metals (like lead and nickel), and nicotine, which leach into ecosystems. Thus, this is a dual crisis!

Please pass this Bill.

Mahalo a nui

John A H Tomoso+, MSW (ret.), ACSW

51 Ku'ula St., Kahului, HI 96732-2906

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:32:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Kuzmier | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2121. I believe that disposable e-cigarettes should be banned because of their hazards to health and to the environment. Mahalo for your consideration.

My name is Amelia and I strongly support HB2121 for ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Disposable e-cigarettes are damaging to brain, heart, lung, and mental health of youth. They contain around 2000 chemical compounds, as well as lithium batteries. Although these e-cigarettes are also labeled as "disposable", the lithium batteries inside cannot be disposed of normally, and improper disposal procedures and damage spark fires. The containers are also commonly made out of plastic, which are not biodegradable. These e-cigarettes negatively impact health and the environment, and we need a ban to prevent fires that destroy the land, plastic waste that choke and harm the sea life, and addiction and health issues in youth from vaping.

I hope that we can move forward with a healthier Hawai'i, and the step forward is ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. Thank you for your time.

Amelia
Honolulu

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Saber Holkup, and I am writing in strong support of HB2121, which would end the sale of disposable vapes in Hawai'i.

Disposable vapes pose a serious and growing environmental threat. These products are designed to be used briefly and then discarded, yet they contain plastic, lithium-ion batteries, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals. Because they are not easily recyclable, most disposable vapes end up in landfills, waterways, or the ocean, where they contribute to long-term pollution and harm ecosystems.

In an island state like Hawai'i, where our land and ocean are deeply connected to our health, culture, and economy, this type of waste is especially damaging. Lithium batteries can leach hazardous materials into the environment, increase fire risk in waste facilities, and contaminate soil and water. The plastic components add to the already overwhelming problem of microplastics affecting marine life and entering the food chain.

HB2121 is an important step toward reducing unnecessary waste and protecting Hawai'i's environment for future generations. Ending the sale of disposable vapes encourages more responsible product design and consumption while aligning with Hawai'i's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

I urge you to pass HB2121 and help protect our 'āina and ocean from preventable pollution.

Mahalo for this opportunity!

Saber Holkup

Aloha Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taylor Wong and I am in strong support for HB2121 which ends the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

This issue has been prominent in many schools across our state. It was reported that nearly 30% of high school students in Hawaii vape; with 46% taking a puff everyday. The overconsumption and access to e-cigarettes are affecting students and our youth. Not only do e-cigarettes pose a risk to the health of our youth, but it also affects others and the environment in schools. Personally, I've had many encounters with students going to the "bathroom" and vaping for the majority of class time. This has led to many bathrooms being closed and the investment of vape alarms. The use of e-cigarettes can not only prevent myself and others from using the bathrooms, it wastes funding on vape alarms; funding that could go into other things that could benefit our schools. In addition it can also take away from other student's class time. Once, my sister had to use the restroom but there were students inside the bathroom vaping. Unfortunately security came in and made everyone go to the Vice Principal's office to search their pockets regardless if they were just there for the bathroom or not. They in fact didn't find anything because the girl who was vaping had run out right before to avoid being caught. Due to that one student, it wasted all the other students' class time.

E-cigarettes should not be accessible to students or adults. I believe that lawmakers have the power to help stop students from using these harmful devices that could cost them their life and waste student's time in schools. I hope that this bill will create a better environment for our youth, especially in our schools- which is a place of learning, not a place to vape. I urge you to support bill HB2121 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Mahalo for your time,
Taylor Wong

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:33:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Laverne Moore | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

"Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is **Laverne Moore**, and I am a **retired educator** testifying in **strong support** of **HB2121 HD2 SD1**, which ends the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in our state.

As a career educator, I have witnessed firsthand the **crisis of classroom disruption** caused by severe nicotine addiction among our students. This dependency creates physiological hurdles that make effective teaching nearly impossible:

- **Shortened Attention Spans:** Students struggling with withdrawal often cannot focus on lessons or complex tasks.
- **Volatile Behavior:** We see increased restlessness and unprovoked aggression when students crave their next hit, which shatters the safety of the learning environment.
- **Safety Concerns:** The addiction has fueled campus 'black markets,' leading to bullying and threats that distract students from their education.

Beyond the classroom, the environmental impact is staggering. In 2023 alone, Americans discarded **5.7 million e-cigarettes every second**. These devices contain non-biodegradable plastics and lithium-ion batteries that leach toxic chemicals and create fire hazards. The debris raises serious concerns for our water quality and aquatic life.

To protect our keiki and our environment, I urge you to pass this measure. Closing the loopholes on disposable products is essential to restoring the integrity of our schools and the health of our community.

Mahalo for your time and for the opportunity to testify."

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:22:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Chang | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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LATE

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:13:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jake J. Watkins | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

HB2121 will put small local vape shops out of business. It bans all the best products.

LATE

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:03:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wayne Tanaka | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Mahalo nui to for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure. Let's protect our keiki, reduce our plastic waste stream, and mitigate the costs of lithium ion battery fires in our landfills and neighborhoods - please PASS HB2121 HD2 SD1!

LATE

HB-2121-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:51:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adrian R DeLeon | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The introduction of this bill does not adequately address waste and pollution generated from other sources of plastic and lithium, while limiting safer alternatives for cigarette smoking.

LATE

Date: Apr 6, 2026

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 2121. Disposable e-cigarettes greatly impact the health of our people and environment. These devices are barely recyclable and nondegradable due to it containing circuit boards and lithium batteries which are prone to leaking hazardous chemicals in landfills. Disposable e-cigarettes are also made of man-made plastic that can break down into microplastics affecting soil fertility and food safety. If these batteries are improperly disposed of, it may create explosions and fires at waste and recycling facilities or collection trucks. The disposable devices are also popular amongst adolescents and young adults because of its low maintenance design and convenience. The different fruity flavors of e-cigarettes are more enticing to youth than traditional tobacco products, which can lead to nicotine addiction and other health problems such as asthma, early in life. Vaping may cause serious health risks due to the frequent exposure of harmful organic compounds and metals in e-cigarettes. For these reasons, I urge you to pass this bill to prevent the negative consequences of disposable e-cigarettes. Mahalo for your consideration.