

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2121
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 3, 2026, 9:30 AM Room Number: 325 and via 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) provides comments on House Bill 2121
6 (H.B. 2121).

7 **Department Testimony:** In 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restricted the
8 sale of pod-based ESDs, while exempting menthol and disposable ESD.¹ As a result, use of
9 disposable ESDs increased over 1,000% between 2019 and 2020 among high school ESD users in
10 the U.S.² The proportion of total ESD unit sales attributable to disposable ESDs increased from
11 26.0% to 56.5% between February 2020 and September 2025.³ Besides nicotine, which is
12 recognized as an acute hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency, many ESDs

¹ 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>

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

1 contain other toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde, lead, and acrolein.^{4,5} Some ESDs are
2 designed with built-in video games and Bluetooth speakers and come in candy or fruity flavors
3 to attract youth.⁶ According to the CDC Foundation’s Monitoring Tobacco Product Use project,
4 these high-tech, alluring ESD products deemed “disposable” due to their non-refillable nature,
5 account for 93% or 6,400 of the recorded 6,800 ESD products available for sale in the U.S.⁷

6 At the same time disposable ESD sales soared, nicotine content in these products also
7 skyrocketed and prices lowered. According to the Truth Initiative, disposable ESDs in the U.S.
8 tripled in nicotine strength, quintupled in e-liquid capacity, and dropped in price by nearly 70%
9 between 2017 and 2022.⁸

10 The environmental impact of disposable ESD consumption is alarming. Appropriate
11 handling guidelines are lacking, and most individuals have no other option but to discard them
12 in the regular trash.⁹ This becomes dangerous because the lithium batteries are prone to ignite
13 and cause fires and the microplastics and chemicals inside the products can leach into the
14 environment after being littered or discarded in landfills.¹⁰ In a 2024 study conducted by the

⁴ Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/frequent-questions-about-management-standards-hazardous-waste-pharmaceuticals-and#nicotine>.

⁵Salazar et al., “Elevated Toxic Element Emissions from Popular Disposable E-Cigarettes: Sources, Life Cycle, and Health Risks.”

⁶ 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-mp-h-encouraging-retailers-stop-selling-illegal-vapes>

⁷ CDC Foundation. (2025, September). *E-Cigarette & Tobacco Monitoring and Research*. Monitoring Tobacco Product Use. <https://tobaccomonitoring.org/>

⁸ 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>

⁹ 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>

¹⁰ 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 Truth Initiative, 53% of disposable ESD users aged 15-24 stated that they threw their ESDs in
2 the regular trash at a rate of about three per month.¹¹

3 The DOH commends the legislature for hearing and supporting the youth who are
4 promoting this innovative strategy to address nicotine addiction and environmental harms from
5 disposable ESDs. The Department recommends amendments to align H.B. 2121 with existing
6 tobacco retail regulations in Chapter 328J, HRS for clarity and consistency. The use of Chapter
7 342G is problematic for regulating the sale and distribution of disposable ESDs since the
8 regulations pertain to managing waste from items already sold and consumed.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None

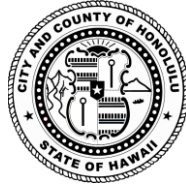
10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹¹ 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>

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KAIĀPUNI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR
PO'O

DANIEL BRIECK, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DIR 26-05

February 2, 2026

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
and Members on the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perruso:

SUBJECT: Department of Environmental Services
House Bill 2121 – Relating to Waste Management

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) submits the following comments in support to HB 2121, relating to the sale of disposable of disposable electronic smoking devices.

HB 2121 provides the mechanism to prohibit the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices which are non-recyclable and non-rechargeable containing lithium batteries. These devices, which are highly flammable, are disposed into the waste stream and may cause fires in the collection, transportation, processing and landfilling of solid waste. Any residual nicotine liquid could also pose a threat to our environment.

In 2024 and 2025, H-POWER experienced 44 and 29 lithium battery-related fires, respectively, causing substantial damage to H-POWER, delays in processing solid waste and unscheduled diversion of solid waste to the landfill.

ENV currently has programs to recycle stand-alone lithium and embedded lithium batteries to address this growing problem with rechargeable batteries. We collect stand-alone batteries at our refuse convenience centers, transfer station and through our Household Hazardous Waste Program at a cost to the tax payers of the City and County of Honolulu.

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
February 2, 2026
Page 2

ENV is in support of HB 2121 to prohibit the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices to address the environmental, safety and public health risks associated with these types of devices.

Please feel free to contact me at (808)-768-3486 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Director



Hawaii COPD Coalition

P O Box 240053

Honolulu, HI 96824

hicopd@gmail.com

(808)699-9839

January 30, 2026

Honorable Chair Representative Nicole E Lowen

Honorable Vice-Chair Representatives Amy A Perruso

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

RE: **Strong Support for HB2121 Relating to Waste Management**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children of our state and our entire state as well. **Please pass HB2121**, Relating to Waste Management, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition and serve over 45,000 Hawaii adults diagnosed with COPD in Hawaii (with an estimated equal number still undiagnosed). Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD is an umbrella of diseases which include emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma. Since 2007, I have worked in Hawaii, nationally and internationally with countless people who have had their lungs and lives horribly affected by tobacco and nicotine. Many of these people have become disabled and unable to perform jobs and hobbies they enjoyed, spending a lot more time and resources with healthcare providers and requiring support from society than they or any of us would like.

- 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.

Please help protect our aina and keep it from being littered by this debris that makes our state ever less desirable to live in or visit, plus is harmful to humans and the animals on land and in our ocean! The Hawaii COPD Coalition thanks you very much for your careful consideration of this most important and timely bill.

Very truly yours,

Valerie Chang

Valerie Chang

Executive Director

Committee Members

Annaleah Atkinson
808 652-7743

Regina Floyd
702 292-2372

Brian Foster
808 639-3529

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Valerie Woods
808 822-2420

Ron Wiley
808 245-9527

Tom Worthen
435 994-0023



February 1, 2026

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Nicole E.Lowen, Chair, Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair, and Members Rep. Cory M. Chun, Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Rep. Matthias Kusch, Rep. Sean Quinlan, and Rep. Lauren Matsumoto,

Strong Support for HB 2121, Relating to Waste Management—Waste Management; Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices; Sale, Offer for Sale, Distribution; Prohibition

Aloha House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection Members,

I represent the Friends of Kamalani & Lydgate Park, a community service organization that built a major playground in Lydgate Beach Park on Kaua'i in 1994. Every weekend we bring families together to work collaboratively, sustaining that facility and other attractive features of that popular regional park.

Picking up litter is one of our recurring tasks, and we are clearing away more and more e-cigarette rubbish. We were sorry to learn that in 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 million e-cigarettes, 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.

Moreover, disposable e-cigarettes have higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, and contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards.

Please advance this in a collaborative effort to reduce environmental harm and protect our most vulnerable citizens from the harms caused by electronic nicotine delivery systems.

Mahalo for your attention to this testimony.

Tommy A. Noyes
General Coordinator
The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park



Chair - Representative Nicole Lowen

Vice Chair - Representative Amy Perruso

Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

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. We have been working to prevent tobacco related harm.

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.

In 2023, Americans threw away nearly 500,000 disposable e-cigarettes every day. Volunteers in beach cleanups have reported dramatic increases in e-cigarette waste, with a 150% rise in devices collected between 2021 and 2024.

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, they 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. 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



HIPHI Board

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

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Hawai'i Health Partners

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For Children in Hawai'i

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John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
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: February 2, 2026

To: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

RE: Strong Support for HB 2121, Relating to Waste Management

Hrg: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 9:30 AM, Room 325

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **Strong Support of HB 2121**, 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. 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 and have become the most common type of device among young people.⁵

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.⁶

Bad for the environment.

Disposable, single-use electronic smoking devices are a public health hazard. Each of these products are made of non-biodegradable plastic, containing nicotine and other hazardous chemicals, metals, wiring and a lithium ion battery. According to a study conducted in 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable electronic devices every second, nearly 500,000 per day.⁷ Over a year, this amounts to 150 million devices creating a huge amount of hazardous waste.



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, 82% of registered Hawai'i voters support a law that would prohibit the sale of all disposable electronic smoking devices.⁸

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.

We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Ramirez", is written in a cursive style.

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. (n.d.).
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

4 Commissioner, O. of the. (n.d.). *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 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>

6 Salazar, M. R., Saina, L., Nguyen, T. B., Pinkerton, K. E., Madl, A. K., Cole, A. M., & Poulin, B. A. (n.d.). *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>

7 CDC Foundation. (2024, November 24). *Monitoring E-Cigarette Trends in the United States*
<https://tobaccomonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024MonitoringE-CigaretteTrendsUS-1.pdf>



8 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 IN SUPPORT OF HB 2121

TO: Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: February 3, 2026 (9:30 AM)

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

Americans discard hundreds of thousands of e-cigarettes every day. 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.

Unfortunately, many 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 the people and wildlife, particularly when they find their way into aquatic environments. It only takes a nicotine concentration of [7.5 parts per million to kill goldfish in twenty-four hours](#).

HHHC'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, HHHC 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.

LATE

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:49:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear EEP Committee.

We are strongly opposed to this hb2121. It is just a nasty plan by a special interest group to take away the products that your constituents enjoy. It would also be devastating to local retailers where these products make up the majority of their sales.

Respectfully,

Hawaii Smokers Alliance

HB-2121

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 5:15:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill for the sake of our environment, as well as health of our youth.

HB-2121

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:26:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support HB2121, which will prohibit the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i. It is necessary to do so because of the human health and environmental harm they do.

- 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

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:30:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Disposable vapes are a terrible source of pollution due to the lithium ion batteries they contain and the frequency with which they are disposed of.

HB-2121

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:29:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:43:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Less nicotine addiction, less severe lung damage, and less environmental issues for the state.

HB-2121

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:45:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Jo Manea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation to prohibit single use electronic e-cigarettes.

Sally Jo Manea

Kapaa, Kaua`i

HB-2121

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:46:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poranee Sponsel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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.

HB 2121

Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

I am writing as a retired Kauai pediatrician and concerned citizen to strongly support HB 2121, to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes, or “vapes.” Disposable 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 HB 2121.

Respectfully,

Linda Weiner, MD

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:37:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 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. In 2023, Americans disposed of 5.7 million e-cigarettes every second, totaling nearly 500,000 per day. The waste generated by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns among researchers, who are noting potential impacts on water quality and aquatic life due to the presence of plastics, metals, batteries, and nicotine. Disposable e-cigarettes contain non-biodegradable plastics and lithium-ion batteries, which can leach harmful chemicals and pose fire hazards. Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes will help prevent hazardous substances from contaminating the environment.

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:29:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 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.

Date: February 1, 2026

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: **Support for HB2121**, Relating to Waste Management

Hrg: Tuesday February 3, 2026 at 9:30 am via Videoconference Conference Room 325

Aloha House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection,

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong support of HB2121**, 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**, 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

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

Aloha, my name is Louis, and I am a student and youth advocate with the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Youth Council.

A few years ago, I lost my uncle to lung cancer caused by tobacco. My grandfather too. I grew up hearing their coughs, their struggles to breathe, and I remember how powerless my family felt watching them fade away. We thought those days were behind us. But now, a new form of nicotine addiction is taking over my generation.

At school, I see students puffing from disposable vapes hidden in their sleeves. These aren't just "flavored devices." They're bright, colorful, candy-scented traps curated to hook teens. I've seen friends who once promised to stay clean now unable to go a day without dying for a hit. They tell me they can stop whenever they want. But in reality, their words were far from the truth.

These products are designed to addict. Cheap, easy to hide, and disposable so that no one notices. They litter our beaches and parks and fill our lungs with the same puffs of lies the tobacco industry told decades ago.

Hawai'i has a chance to lead again. We can protect our youth and our land by ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes once and for all.

Please, don't let another generation be defined by addiction. Let's make sure our future is smoke-free, vape-free, and full of life.

Mahalo for your time and for standing up for Hawai'i's youth.

Louis

Honolulu

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:12:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailana G Hagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen,

I am writing in support of HB212, ending the sale of Disposable E-cigarettes.

These products create a massive ammuount of environmental waste, as these plastic casings, lithium batteries, and toxic residues can rarely be recycled and end up in landfills or waterways. Ending their sale is a practical step to protect the environment of our islands and promote more responsible and sustainable alternatives, not to mention the health issues that are affiliated with vaping. This bill would both reduce health and environmental concerns for the state, relating directly back to my support of the bill.

Thank you,

Kailana Hagan - Junior in high school

Chair - Representative Nicole Lowen
Vice Chair - Representative Amy Perruso
Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

I support HB2121. I believe lawmakers have a responsibility to protect youth by ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes through HB2121.

As a student in Oahu, I often see people my age in public places using vapes and appearing happy or relaxed. It worries me that it is their source of happiness or relief, especially because many do not fully understand the long-term health effects of getting addicted to nicotine. When I first saw disposable e-cigarettes, I found it interesting how they were designed with bright colors and appealing flavors. It resembled the same toys I played with as a child, both bright, colorful, and interesting. It reminded me of an art supply I had where the marker had a special scent.

This illustrates how these harmful and misleading products are intentionally marketed to attract the younger generation. The youth is not the source of the issue and should not be blamed. It's the companies that should take accountability. They gain profit from targeting innocent young people. This matters to me because I do not want people in my generation to suffer from health conditions. Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes would help protect both youth and the environment in Hawai'i.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB2121.

Claire
Ewa Beach

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:28:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2121. Disposable e-cigarettes are another single use plastic item that negatively impacts our environment. They leach heavy metals, toxic chemicals and plastics into our fragile environment and 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 micro.plastics, and protect against fires. Please support HB 2121

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:30:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 2121. Hawaii heavily depends on its natural beauty, and a disposable tobacco ban will help Hawaii to maintain its beautiful, clean image. It's imperative that we take this critical opportunity to combat environmental pollution and support the people who rely on Hawaii's nature.

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:59:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 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

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:14:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is An and I'm a college public health student on O'ahu. I'm testifying in support of HB2121 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 bill HB2121 to end the sale of disposable vapes. Mahalo for caring about Hawai'i's keiki and kupuna.

Mahalo,
An
Honolulu

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:51:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Disposable e-cigarettes contain toxic waste like lithium-ion batteries, lead, and nickel. When not properly disposed of, these contaminants damage Hawaii's fragile aina and wai. This bill is a common sense approach to a hazard affecting our keiki and our lands. Mahalo for your time.

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:01:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

I am in strong support of this bill to prohibit the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in our State. Similar to disposable plastic straws, our islands and our ocean are littered with unnecessary plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards. This creates an incredible adverse impact on our water quality and aquatic life.

Please protect our keiki and our ‘āina by supporting Bill 2121 and insure the health of our ecosystem for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this important issue.

Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue Lee-Loy, and Members of the Committee on Health,

My name is Amelia and I strongly support Bill 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

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:19:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Itomura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair, vice chair, and members of the EEP committee,

I am a high school student writing in strong support of HB2121. Disposable e-cigarettes are extremely popular among teens and pose serious risks to both physical and mental health. I have seen firsthand how these products negatively affect students.

In addition to the health harms, disposable e-cigarettes create environmental and safety risks due to the lithium-ion batteries they contain. Users often lack safe disposal options, and improperly discarded batteries have contributed to fires and explosions at Hawai‘i’s H-POWER facility, slowing operations, damaging equipment, and putting workers at risk.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your strongest support of HB2121.

Mahalo,

Luke Itomura

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:25:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cori Takesue	Lanai Community Health Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2121. Disposable e-cigarettes currently pose a threat to our health and environment. In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 million e-cigarettes every second, accounting for at least 500,000 per day. I can attest to seeing these products just thrown aside on the road or in parks when I am taking walks. These devices can impact the water quality and aquatic life due to the plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine in them. These products contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that contain harmful chemicals and can create fire hazards. They also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes. As there is no safe way to dispose of these products, I strongly recommend you consider passing HB 2121 as it seeks to protect our aina, our wildlife, and our people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cori

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:00:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Smalley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perrusso,

I am in strong support of HB2121.

- 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.

This issue is one that can be easily resolved by your support of HB2121

Mahalo Valerie Smalley

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:02:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Buenconsejo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am support of HB2121 which will prohibit the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

February 2, 2026

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members.

I am writing in strong support of HB2121, "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 on state and local legislators to protect their constituents and environments.

I urge you to support HB 2121 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

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:47:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Disposable e-cigarettes threaten both the health of our people and the survival of the land we depend on. Americans now discard nearly 500,000 of these devices every single day, leaving behind plastics, metals, nicotine waste, and lithium-ion batteries that do not break down and can leach toxic chemicals into our soil and water. Researchers warn that this debris poses growing risks to water quality, aquatic life, and our broader environment. With nicotine concentrations even higher than past e-cigarette products, these devices fuel addiction while creating long-term hazards for our ‘āina; land that sustains us physically and culturally. To protect our communities and future generations, please pass this bill and help safeguard Hawai‘i.

LATE

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:57:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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LATE

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:41:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: **Strong Support for HB2121** – Prohibiting the Sale of Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

Aloha Chair Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Rep. Amy A.Perruso, and Committee Members,

My name is Cyd Hoffeld, and I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2121**, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of single-use disposable electronic smoking devices in Hawai‘i starting **January 1, 2027**. These devices represent a growing crisis that endangers both our public health and our unique island environment.

I urge you to pass this measure for the following critical reasons:

- **Environmental Destruction:** Disposable vapes are an environmental nightmare, introducing a cocktail of **dangerous plastics, toxic heavy metals (like lead and mercury), and hazardous chemicals** into our soil and waterways. Because they are designed to be thrown away, they often end up as non-biodegradable litter on our beaches and in our storm drains.
- **Fire Hazards:** These devices contain **lithium-ion batteries** that cannot be safely processed by standard waste facilities. When crushed in garbage trucks or landfills, they can spark "zombie fires" that pose significant risks to workers and local infrastructure.
- **High Addiction Rates:** Modern disposable e-cigarettes often contain significantly **higher nicotine concentrations** than previous generations, delivered via nicotine salts that make them easier to inhale and harder to quit. This has led to skyrocketing addiction rates, particularly among our youth, whose developing brains are uniquely vulnerable to the long-term effects of nicotine.
- **Toxic Aerosols:** The "vapor" produced by these devices is actually a harmful aerosol containing **formaldehyde, acrolein, and other carcinogens**. Passing **HB2121** is a necessary step to protect our community from these known toxins.

By removing these single-use products from our markets, we can take a decisive stand for a cleaner, safer, and healthier Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to protecting our islands by **passing HB2121**.

Mahalo nui,
Cyd L Hoffeld

LATE

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:16:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committe Members,

My name is Leilani Kailiawa. I am a parent and community leader.

I am writing in support of HB2121. 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, and nicotine, which leach into ecosystems. This bill would prohibit the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes in Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa for your listening and allowing me to share in support of this bill HB 2121

With gratitude

Leilani Kailiawa

LATE

HB-2121

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:56:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Let's protect our keiki, reduce our plastics waste stream, and avoid ever more costly lithium battery fires from *disposable* vapes - please pass HB2121. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure!