



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2175, S.D. 2  
RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 25, 2026  
9:30 AM

Room Number: Conference Room 329  
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 Senate Bill 2175, Senate Draft 2  
6 (S.B. 2175, S.D. 2) which would prohibit selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain  
7 disposable ESDs, and offers amendments.

8 **Department Testimony:** In 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restricted the  
9 sale of pod-based ESDs, while exempting menthol and disposable ESD.<sup>1</sup> As a result, use of  
10 disposable ESDs increased over 1,000% between 2019 and 2020 among high school ESD users in  
11 the U.S.<sup>2</sup> The proportion of total ESD unit sales attributable to disposable ESDs increased from

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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 26.0% to 56.5% between February 2020 and September 2025.<sup>3</sup> Besides nicotine, which is  
2 recognized as acute hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency, many ESDs  
3 contain other toxic chemicals and heavy metals such as chromium, lead, and nickel.<sup>4,5,6</sup> Some  
4 ESDs are designed with built-in video games and Bluetooth speakers and come in candy or  
5 fruity flavors to attract youth.<sup>7</sup> According to the CDC Foundation’s Monitoring Tobacco Product  
6 Use project, these high-tech, alluring ESD products deemed “disposable” due to their non-  
7 refillable nature, account for 93% or 6,400 of the recorded 6,800 ESD products available for sale  
8 in the U.S.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup>

13 The environmental impact of disposable ESD consumption is alarming. Appropriate  
14 handling guidelines are lacking, and most individuals have no other option but to discard them

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<sup>3</sup> CDC Foundation. (2025, September). *E-Cigarette & Tobacco Monitoring and Research*. Monitoring Tobacco Product Use. <https://tobacomonitoring.org/>

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

<sup>5</sup>Salazar, M. R., Saini, L., Nguyen, T. B., Pinkerton, K. E., Madl, A. K., Cole, A. M., & Poulin, B. A. (2025). Elevated Toxic Element Emissions from Popular Disposable E-Cigarettes: Sources, Life Cycle, and Health Risks. *ACS Central Science*, 11(8), 1345–1354. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acscentsci.5c00641>

<sup>6</sup> 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/2019/02/22/2019-04311/40-cfr-v-amendment-to-the-acute-hazardous-waste-listing-for-nicotine-and-salts)

<sup>7</sup> 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. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-marty-makary-md-mp-h-encouraging-retailers-stop-selling-illegal-vapes>

<sup>8</sup> CDC Foundation. (2025, September). *E-Cigarette & Tobacco Monitoring and Research*. Monitoring Tobacco Product Use. <https://tobacomonitoring.org/>

<sup>9</sup> 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>

1 in the regular trash.<sup>10</sup> This becomes dangerous because the lithium batteries are prone to ignite  
2 and cause fires and the microplastics and chemicals inside the products can leach into the  
3 environment after being littered or discarded in landfills.<sup>11</sup> In a 2024 study conducted by the  
4 Truth Initiative, 53% of disposable ESD users aged 15-24 stated that they threw their ESDs in  
5 the regular trash at a rate of about three per month.<sup>12</sup>

6 The DOH supports S.B. 2175, S.D. 2 to stem the environmental harm from disposable  
7 ESDs, and offers amendments for clarity and consistency. The DOH also finds S.B. 2175, S.D. 2  
8 compatible with the comprehensive approach through House Bill 1573, House Draft 3 that  
9 establishes the ESD Directory and penalties under the Department of the Attorney General.

10 **Offered Amendments:**

11 On page 3, strike lines 19-20. On page 4, strike lines 1 – 12, and insert, “(d) As used in this  
12 section, “disposable electronic smoking device” means an electronic smoking device that is non  
13 refillable, has a non-rechargeable battery, or is intended to be disposed of after the contents  
14 inside the device have been used.”

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

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<sup>10</sup> 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>

<sup>11</sup> 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>

<sup>12</sup> 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>



## HIPHI Board

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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: March 24, 2026

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2175 SD2, Relating to Disposable Electronic  
Smoking Devices

Hrg: Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 9:30 AM, Room 329

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The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>1</sup> is in **strong support of, and proposes amendments to SB 2175 SD2**, which would end the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

**We respectfully request that SB 2175 SD2 be amended to mirror the language in HB 2121 HD1, Relating to Waste Management.**

The proposed amendments would:

- 1) remove the exemption for products on the FDA authorized list; and
- 2) broaden the definition of "disposable e-cigarette" to include any device that has liquid that is non-refillable, OR has a battery that is not rechargeable, OR is intended to be discarded after its contents are used.

As drafted, SB 2175 SD2 currently requires all three criteria to be met in order to be considered a disposable e-cigarette, limiting the bill's impact.

Tobacco-related disease continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, resulting in 480,000 deaths annually,<sup>2</sup> with 1,400 of those deaths happening each year in Hawai'i.<sup>3</sup> 95% of adult cigarette smokers started before they turned 21 years of age,<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

### 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

**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.<sup>8</sup> 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. 81% of registered Hawai'i voters support a law that would prohibit the sale of all disposable electronic smoking devices.<sup>9</sup>

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 SB 2175 SD2.

We respectfully ask you to pass this measure with amendments.

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

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**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 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.



Hawaii COPD Coalition

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(808)699-9839

March 20, 2026

Honorable Chairs Representatives Takayama and Marten  
Honorable Vice-Chairs Representatives Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds  
Members of the House Health and Human Services & Homeless Committees

RE: **Strong Support for SB2175, SD2 (with amendments) Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten and Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and members of the House Health and Human Services & Homeless Committees,

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children of our state and our entire state as well. **Please pass SB2175,SD2**, (with amendments), Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices, 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.

**Please pass SB2175, SD2 (with amendments) and send it on to become law!**

Very truly yours,

*Valerie Chang*

Valerie Chang

Executive Director

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 2:50:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT** of [SB 2175 SD2](#), which would prohibit the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i.

*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.*



## **TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN**

INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII

### **IN OPPOSITION (WITH COMMENTS) TO SB 2175 SD2 RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES**

House Committee on Health  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
9:30 AM

Conference Room 329 / Videoconference

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Marten, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and Members of the Committees:

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.

#### **RMH respectfully offers comments in opposition to SB 2175 SD2.**

We want to begin by acknowledging the strong concerns raised by the Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i, and public health advocates regarding youth usage, nicotine addiction, and environmental impacts. These are real issues, and we share the goal of protecting Hawai'i's youth and preserving our environment.

At the same time, we believe this measure raises several important implementation and policy considerations.

Hawai'i already prohibits the sale of electronic smoking devices to individuals under the age of 21. If youth usage remains high, it suggests that enforcement of existing law should be carefully evaluated. Strengthening compliance, enforcement, and accountability within the current framework may be more effective than adding new prohibitions that primarily impact licensed, law-abiding retailers.

This measure would also eliminate a category of products currently purchased by adults. While public health testimony notes concern regarding youth use, the policy question remains whether

a full product ban is the most effective approach, particularly if it may lead to unintended consequences such as shifting demand to unregulated or illicit markets where age verification and product safety standards are more difficult to control.

With respect to environmental concerns, we agree that improper disposal of lithium batteries and electronic waste is a growing issue. However, disposable batteries and small electronic components are already present in many everyday consumer products. Hawai'i currently lacks a comprehensive, convenient, and widely utilized system for battery recycling and disposal. Addressing this issue through a broader, consistent framework across all consumer battery products may provide a more effective long-term solution than focusing on a single product category.

From a business perspective, this measure will impact local retailers, including small businesses that are operating in compliance with existing laws. These businesses contribute to employment and tax revenue within the state. Policymakers may wish to consider whether a prohibition could shift sales away from regulated retail environments without fully eliminating demand.

Given these considerations, RMH respectfully suggests the Legislature consider a more balanced approach, which could include:

- enhanced enforcement of existing age restriction laws
- increased penalties for illegal sales to minors
- targeted education and prevention efforts
- and development of practical, statewide battery recycling and disposal programs

We believe these steps can help address the concerns outlined by public health stakeholders while maintaining regulatory consistency and supporting responsible local businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



March 22, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS  
Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair  
Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB2175 SD2 RELATING TO RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC  
SMOKING DEVICES

Hrg: March 25, 2026 at 9:30AM

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.

The Hawaii Public Health Association supports SB 2175 SD2. 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 SUPPORT SB 2175 SD2 which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i.

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'.

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:15:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We stand on our previous testimony in strong opposition to SB2175. SB2175 is anti-small business and anti-freedoms.



## **SB2175 SD2 End Disposable E-Cig**

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 25, 2026: 9:30: Room 329 Videoconference

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2175 SD2:**

*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.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:34:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Baker	Hina Mauka	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Hina Mauka Support SB2175, SD2:**

*ALOHA CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.*

- Vaping, especially among youth, is rising quickly, largely driven by single-use vape products.
- Even where restrictions exist, these items are still easy to obtain locally without proper enforcement.
- These devices now contain significantly higher levels of nicotine than in the past, increasing addiction risks.
- Discarded vapes contribute to environmental damage due to plastics, chemicals, and embedded batteries.
- Federal agencies consider these products to be hazardous waste because of their toxic components.
- Improper disposal—especially in regular trash—creates fire hazards and pollution from leaking materials.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

To: House Committee on Health  
Re: **SB2175 SD2 – Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**  
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
March 25, 2026; 9:30 AM

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of SB2175 SD2**. This bill prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of certain disposable electronic smoking devices, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> [https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/\\_YRBSSelection.html](https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html)

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hiphi.org/tobacco/>

**Committee  
Members**

Annaleah Atkinson  
808 652-7743

Regina Floyd  
702 292-2372

Brian Foster  
808 639-3529

Kristen Greene  
808 346-0386

Doug Haigh  
808 635-1120

Diana Harvey  
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Barbara Honeycutt  
541 251-1487

Dave Lister  
618 237-9138

Scott McCubbins  
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Ryan Moen  
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Tommy Noyes  
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Jessica Pinson  
937 901-5818

Doug Shannon  
909 496-1188

Valerie Woods  
808 822-2420

Ron Wiley  
808 245-9527

Tom Worthen  
435 994-0023



March 23, 2026

Committee on Health: Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair; Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair; Rep. Terez Amato; Rep. Jenna Takenouchi; Rep. Daisy Hartsfield; Rep. David Alcos, III; Rep. Lisa Marten; Rep. Diamond Garcia; and Rep. Ikaika Olds

Committee on Human Services & Homelessness: Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair; Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair; Rep. Terez Amato; Rep. Jenna Takenouchi; Rep. Daisy Hartsfield; Rep. David Alcos, III; Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy; Rep. Diamond Garcia; and Rep. Gregg Takayama

**RE: Strong Support (with amendments) for SB 2175 SD2  
Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

Aloha HLT Committee & HSH Committee 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 amend the bill by adopting the language from HB2121 to remove the exemption for products on the FDA authorized list and improve the definition of disposable products, and 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



March 23, 2026

As a committee member of Hawaiian Substance Abuse Coalition and the CEO/Manager of Go dehp dba Island Health.VIP, I would like to support bill SB2175, SD2 in prohibiting selling, offering for sale or distributing certain disposable electronic devices.

For one: This type of disposable electronic device often can catch fire, harm children, pets and rarely ends up in being recycled.

For Two: Even if For One was mitigated through mandating appropriate disposability and toxic fire capacity, it becomes too addictive and too easily accessed by minors, as well as adults. It is also easily tucked away and used in many places of businesses including churches, schools, grocery stores, beaches, sidewalks, parks and so on.

Please eliminate this unnecessary expensive health concern for many.

Respectfully,

*Josette Sullins*

Josette Sullins

O – 808-336-2611

M – 480-225-0555



To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair  
The Honorable Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Homelessness and Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, Senior Vice President of External Affairs  
Mike Nguyen, Senior Director of External Affairs  
Maria Rallojay, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 9:30am, Conference Room 329

RE: **SB2175 SD2 Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB2175 SD2**. This measure would prohibit the selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable electronic smoking devices beginning 1/1/2027.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare's commitment to whole-person care includes promoting long-term well-being across the communities we serve. Vaping, especially among youth, has real and preventable health impacts. This may include nicotine addiction that can affect brain development and increased risk of progression to other tobacco use. Disposable e-cigarettes are also widely used by youth and are often highly appealing to them due to design and ease of access. For these reasons, AlohaCare supports any measure that eliminates or limits the availability of e-cigarettes in our communities, particularly products that appeal to or are easily accessed by youth.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **SB2175 SD2**.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2175 SD2

TO: Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: March 25, 2026 (9:30 am)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) strongly supports SB 2175 SD2, 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.



Chair - Representative Gregg Takayama  
Vice Chair - Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy  
Members of the Committee on Health

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 SB2175.**

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

# Hawaii Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

**LATE**

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice-Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (HAAP) would like to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 2175 SD2**, which would ban disposable vape products from being sold in Hawai'i. 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 SB2175 SD2.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

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

**LATE**

Date: March 25, 2026

To: Chair Representative Gregg Takayama of Committee on Health  
Vice Chair Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee of Committee on Health

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

Re: Strong Support for SB 2175 Relating to Disposable Electronic E-Cigarette Devices

Hearing: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 9:30am CR 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2175. 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

**Testimony of Daniel Nitta, MPH (Community Health Sciences)**

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

**LATE**

**In Support of S.B. 2175, S.D. 2**

Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

**Before the House Committee on Health (HLT)**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 9:30 AM

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

My name is Daniel Nitta, and I am testifying on behalf of HIPHI in strong support of S.B. 2175, S.D. 2.

This issue is deeply personal to me. I lost my father to smoking. From a young age, I experienced the impacts of tobacco use, including exposure to second-hand smoke and the emotional stress of repeated health scares. My father was hospitalized multiple times for breathing problems and pneumonia related to heart disease associated with smoking. Eventually, he suffered a medical emergency that led to him being placed on life support. My mother and I had to make the devastating decision to let him go. That loss has stayed with me throughout my life.

My experience reflects the lasting and preventable impact tobacco use can have on families. Today, a new generation is being exposed to nicotine addiction through e-cigarettes. In Hawai'i, 46% of high school students who vape report doing so daily, indicating high levels of addiction.<sup>1</sup> Nicotine is highly addictive and harms brain development, affecting attention, learning, and impulse control in youth.<sup>2</sup> Kids who use e-cigarettes are also more likely to go on to smoke traditional cigarettes.<sup>3</sup>

While some individuals may turn to vaping to reduce harm, research shows that people who both smoke and vape are four times more likely to develop lung cancer than those who only smoke.<sup>4</sup> This highlights the risk of dual use and underscores that vaping is not a safe alternative.

In addition to these health harms, e-cigarettes pose environmental risks. Their components—including nicotine residues, batteries, and electronic waste—can leach toxic substances into soil and water, harming ecosystems and wildlife.<sup>5</sup>

E-cigarettes also expose users to harmful chemicals, including carcinogens and substances linked to lung disease and cancer risk.<sup>6,7</sup> Furthermore, research shows that e-cigarette use can cause biological changes associated with cancer development.<sup>8</sup>

No family should have to experience this kind of preventable loss, and this measure is a critical step in protecting future generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass S.B. 2175, S.D. 2.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

*Daniel Nitta*

Daniel Nitta, MPH (Community Health Sciences)

## References

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- [2] CDC: Smoking and Tobacco Use. (2025, January 31). *Health effects of vaping*. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/e-cigarettes/health-effects.html>
- [4] American Cancer Society. (2024, November 7). *Smoking and vaping together increases lung cancer risk more than smoking alone*. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/latest-news/smoking-and-vaping-together-increases-lung-cancer-risk-more-than-smoking-alone.html>
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- [7] Cleveland Clinic: health essentials. (2026, January 13). *Does Vaping Cause Lung Cancer?* <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/vaping-and-lung-cancer>
- [8] Herzog, C., Jones, A., Evans, I., Raut, J. R., Zikan, M., Cibula, D., Wong, A., Brenner, H., Richmond, R. C., & Widschwendter, M. (2024). Cigarette Smoking and E-cigarette Use Induce Shared DNA Methylation Changes Linked to Carcinogenesis. *Cancer research*, 84(11), 1898–1914. <https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-23-2957>

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 1:37:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of SB2175. 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 as well as a major fire hazard.

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

Lynne Matusow

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:25:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Stensrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support SB2175 which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.**

**Disposable e-cigarettes are a 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 microplastics, and protect against fires. Please support SB2175.**

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:38:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully request your vote in support of this measure.

Mahalo nui

Date: March 20, 2026

To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair  
The Honorable Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Re: **Support for SB2175 SD2**, Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

Hrg: Wed March 25, 2026 at 9:30 am via Videoconference Conference Room 329

Aloha House Committees on Health and Human Services & Homelessness,

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong support of SB2175 SD2**, which prohibits selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable electronic smoking devices.

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 SB2175 SD2**, 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

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:28:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shani Carvalho	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Shani "Kai" Carvalho and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2175 SD2 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes and requesting amendments to please adopt the language from HB2121, which would remove the exemption for products on the FDA authorized list and improve the definition of disposable products. 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.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:30:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 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 SB2175, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of disposable electronic smoking devices in the State of Hawai‘i. This bill is a necessary and urgent step to protect our keiki from predatory addiction, our environment from toxic waste, and our communities from the harms of an industry that prioritizes profit over public health.

**The Youth Vaping Epidemic Is Real and Devastating**

The voices of our young people are clear, and they are crying out for action. At a rally at the State Capitol on March 18, 2026, students from across the islands gathered to demand an end to the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. Their stories are heartbreaking and should compel every lawmaker to act.

"My middle school's bathrooms, which should have been a basic facility for our students, had been turned into a vape lounge," testified Maya Butts, a freshman at Kalaheo High School. "Seventh and 8th graders would frequently slip away during class to get a whiff of peach ice or other fruit-flavored disposables."

Another student, Jeremiah Jacinto of Baldwin High School on Maui, described a situation that has spiraled out of control: "It's gotten to the point where it's a gamble whether the bathroom is closed because of all the kids vaping. Sometimes the teachers don't even bother trying to confiscate the vapes anymore." He estimated that he could name "like 50 kids" addicted to vaping, describing it as "like a brain vacuum" that they cannot function without.

The statistics bear out their experience. Approximately one-third of Hawai‘i high school students have tried vaping, and the rate among middle school students is one in five. More alarmingly, youth who use e-cigarettes are four times more likely to start smoking combustible cigarettes.

**Disposable Vapes Are Designed for Addiction and Environmental Destruction**

SB2175 targets a specific product category: disposable electronic smoking devices that are non-refillable, have a non-rechargeable battery, or are intended to be discarded after a single use. These products are not designed for harm reduction or smoking cessation—they are designed for

addiction. Their low cost, colorful packaging, and sweet flavors like "peach ice" make them the entry point of choice for young people experimenting with vaping.

As Rep. Jeanne Kapela, a co-introducer of the companion bill, noted, these are "companies selling addiction disguised as candy."

The environmental toll is staggering. An estimated 5.7 disposable vapes are discarded every second in the United States—more than 150 million each year. In Hawai‘i alone, over 1,000 e-cigarettes containing lithium-ion batteries, carcinogens, plastics, and toxic lead are discarded each day. These devices leach heavy metals and toxic nicotine into our ecosystems, litter our beaches, and pose fire risks at waste facilities.

### **The Time to Act Is Now**

SB2175 would make Hawai‘i the first state in the nation to implement a ban on disposable vapes. The bill has garnered broad support from Governor Josh Green, Attorney General Anne Lopez, public health advocates, and a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers. Students from more than 30 schools across Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Molokai, and Hawai‘i Island have rallied in support.

Opposition has come primarily from the Hawai‘i Smokers Alliance, which has called the bill a "mean spirited, anti-business mess" that will destroy vape retailers. But we must be clear about what we are protecting: not local businesses, but an industry that profits from hooking our children on addictive products.

As Rep. Kapela told the students at the rally, "You are sending a statement to legislators that your voices are powerful and meaningful and you will continue to provide strength and courage so that we can make the decisions that help protect you and your futures."

Disposable electronic smoking devices serve no legitimate purpose. They addict our keiki, poison our environment, and enrich an industry with a long and shameful history of targeting vulnerable communities. SB2175 would remove them from store shelves and send a clear message: in Hawai‘i, we do not tolerate products designed for addiction and environmental destruction.

I urge this committee to pass SB2175 and protect our children, our communities, and our ‘āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:43:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my full support for SB2175, 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

Waiālae-Kahala

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:13:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
An Vo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Health Committee.

My name is An and I'm a college public health student on O'ahu. I'm testifying in strong support of SB2175 SD2 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 SB2175 SD2 to end the sale of disposable vapes. Mahalo for caring about Hawai'i's keiki and kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa,  
An Vo  
Honolulu, HI

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:14:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Nihipali	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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula. HI 96717

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:56:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chien-Wen Tseng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I just toured Waimanalo Gulch and HIPower last month and it was eyeopening how much trash we create. Plus our keiki are being targeted to vape and it's been shown that vaping increases likelihood of tobacco use. Please support SB2175 to ban disposable vapes for our future health and for our islands. Mahalo.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:36:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Busch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dr. Gerald Busch. I am a physician specializing in addiction psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry. I care for individuals and families affected by substance use disorders, including nicotine addiction.

Disposable electronic smoking devices are not only an environmental concern—they are also a growing public health problem, especially for youth.

I respectfully offer three key points in support:

- **These products are driving youth nicotine addiction:** Disposable devices are inexpensive, easy to use, and widely used by adolescents. Many of the young patients I see develop nicotine dependence through these products.
- **Nicotine exposure harms the developing brain:** In children and adolescents, nicotine affects attention, mood, and impulse control, and increases the risk of long-term addiction to other substances.
- **Prevention is far more effective than treatment:** Once addiction develops, it is difficult to treat. Reducing access to highly addictive, youth-appealing products is one of the most effective ways to protect public health.

This bill also has the added benefit of reducing environmental harm, making it a strong and balanced public health policy.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting the health of Hawaii’s youth and communities.

Very respectfully,  
Gerald Busch MD MPH  
Past President, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:42:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Helen Barrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of ohana and our aina. 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.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 2:22:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! Protect the health of our youth, and our environment!

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 3:07:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 5:22:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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.

Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i, we have the chance to improve the health of many, especially of our keiki.

Please adopt the language from HB2121, which would remove the exemption for products on the FDA authorized list and improve the definition of disposable products.

On behalf of the keiki and young people of Hawai'i, I urge you to support this bill. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP

Pediatrician



March 25, 2026

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the House Committee on Health.

I am writing in support of SB 2175, SD2 “Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices,” but **requesting that the measure be amended to reflect the language of HB2121 which would remove the exemption for products on the FDA authorized list and improve the definition of disposable products.**

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 SB 2175, SD2 with the requested amendments 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

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:41:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sophie Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis of severe environmental pollution and public health risks. Approximately 5 disposable vapes are thrown away every second in the U.S., totaling over 150 million annually. These single-use devices, often used by youth illegally, contain lithium-ion batteries, toxic heavy metals (like lead and nickel), and nicotine, which leach into ecosystems. They are difficult to recycle, frequently thrown in regular trash, and cause fires in waste facilities. They're highly addictive which leads to more consumption and even more waste.

Disposable cigarettes harm the individual physically and financially, the community, the environment, and much more while the only people who benefit are big business owners who have no accountability or morality on what this product is doing to our youth and environment.

I dream of a future where we can celebrate this as a huge success in Hawaii and continue to be one of the leaders in taking action to protect our public's health and environment.

I support SB2175 SD2.

Mahalo for your time!

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:56:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bob Grossmann, PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You've heard all the public and environmental reasons.

But, here's a reminder of the insidious nature of the tobacco industry.

Back in the mid-1980's, free, two-pack cigarettes were handed out in downtown Honolulu to attract new smokers and encourage those who had stopped again to restart.

it took the Hawaii State Legislature the courage to pass a law banning that nasty practice. Yes, the tobacco lobby remembered the next election cycle; some courage is required.

Please have the wherewithal to do so again.

My dad, based at Hickman during WWII was given free packs.

He died of smoking-related lung cancer and wished he had known better, then, of the health risks, e.g., nicotine addiction.

We know better now.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:01:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

:(

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 3:54:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inam Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 2175 SD2 – Relating to Disposable E-Cigarettes

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

I write in strong support of SB 2175 SD2, which takes an important and timely step to protect Hawaii’s keiki, our environment, and the long-term health of our communities by prohibiting the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

As a physician serving families in West O‘ahu, I have seen firsthand the growing impact of nicotine addiction, particularly among young people. Disposable e-cigarettes are uniquely problematic—they are inexpensive, flavored, easy to conceal, and widely accessible. These characteristics make them especially appealing to youth, creating early addiction pathways that can lead to long-term health consequences.

At the same time, these products pose a serious environmental threat. Disposable e-cigarettes contain lithium-ion batteries, plastics, and toxic metals such as lead and nickel. In an island state like Hawai‘i, where landfill capacity is limited and our ecosystems are fragile, the accumulation of this waste is not sustainable. Protecting our ‘āina and our ocean must remain a priority.

For these reasons, this measure is both a public health and environmental protection bill, and I strongly support its intent.

At the same time, I respectfully offer several amendments to strengthen the bill and ensure its successful implementation:

1. Preserve Adult Harm Reduction Pathways

While disposable e-cigarettes should be restricted, it is important to maintain access to regulated, non-disposable alternatives for adult smokers attempting to quit combustible tobacco. This balanced approach supports harm reduction while still addressing youth access and environmental harm.

2. Provide Support for Small Businesses

Local retailers who rely on these products may face economic challenges. Consider transitional support, guidance, or incentives to help small businesses shift toward compliant and less harmful product lines.

### 3. Strengthen Enforcement and Education

Effective implementation will require adequate enforcement resources and public education. Funding should be considered for compliance monitoring and youth prevention campaigns to ensure the law achieves its intended impact.

### 4. Clarify Definitions to Avoid Loopholes

Clear statutory definitions of “disposable e-cigarette” will be important to prevent unintended loopholes or inconsistent enforcement.

This is a thoughtful and necessary step forward. With these targeted refinements, SB 2175 SD2 can serve as a model for protecting both public health and the environment while maintaining fairness and practicality.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Warm regards,

Dr. Inam Rahman, MD

West O‘ahu, Hawaii

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:58:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Winters	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2175 will hurt retailers including the one I work at. Please don't let these kinds of bills pass.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:11:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

RE: SB2175 SD2

Aloha kākou,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of [SB 2175 SD2](#), which would prohibit the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i. This Bill addresses a serious and growing public health problem in Hawai‘i Nei!

Me ka mahalo,

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

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

[johna.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com](mailto:johna.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com)

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:55:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Lowrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. 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. Mahalo.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:06:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judy Beaver	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.

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.

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:14:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shelly Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and members of the Committees on Health & Human Services:

As a long time public health advocate, I am in strong support of SB2175SD2 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.

Disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis of severe environmental pollution and public health risks. Approximately 5 disposable vapes 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. They are difficult to recycle, frequently thrown in regular trash, and cause fires in waste facilities.

Please protect our keiki and our ‘āina by supporting SB2175 SD2 and ensure the health of our people and overall ecosystem for generations to come. After all, planetary health is public health.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this important issue.

My name is Amelia and I strongly support SB2175 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 SB2175, 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 SB2175 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 on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

My name is Taylor Wong and I am in strong support for SB2175 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 SB2175 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Mahalo for your time,  
Taylor Wong

**TESTIMONY OF TIFFANY M. MARQUEZ**

**In Strong Support of SB2175 SD2 — Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY (JDC)**

Hawai'i State Legislature

**March 25, 2026 — 10:00 a.m.**

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB2175 SD2, which will end the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices beginning January 1, 2027. This measure represents a critical step in protecting both public health and our environment.

Over the years, I have personally witnessed disposable e-cigarettes being used in places they should never be. I have seen parents using them on elementary school campuses, and both youth and adults using them on intermediate and high school grounds. It is deeply concerning to see vaping normalized in spaces that should be safe for our keiki.

Most vape shops and tobacco retailers are situated within a mile radius of schools and parks, placing these products within easy reach of young people. I have submitted testimony over the years on this issue, and the problem continues to grow. With bright packaging and sweet flavors, these devices plainly target youth and foster early addiction.

The harm extends far beyond our children. I have seen soldiers and adults become addicted to these high-nicotine devices, suffering from breathing issues and other health problems. This is not an isolated problem —it affects families and communities throughout Hawai'i and globally.

Disposable vapes also pose an environmental threat. Made of single-use plastic, toxic chemicals, and lithium batteries, they cannot be safely recycled and often end up polluting our 'āina and oceans.

Hawai'i has always led the way in protecting the health of our people and the integrity of our environment. SB2175 SD2 continues that legacy by addressing both the addiction and waste crises these devices create. By taking action now, we protect our keiki, our communities, and our future.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to the well-being of our islands.

Respectfully submitted, **Tiffany M. Marquez** [Ewa Beach] [tmmi@hawaii.edu]

## **SB 2175**

### **Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes**

I am writing as a retired Kauai pediatrician and concerned citizen to strongly support SB 2175 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 SB 2175.

Respectfully,

Linda Weiner, MD

Testimony in Strong Support of SB2175 SD2  
Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices  
House Health Committee  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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

I write in strong support of SB2175 SD2, which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i.

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. SB2175 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 SB2175 SD2 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

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:48:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wayne Tanaka	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.

Please pass this measure to mitigate the impacts of disposable nicotine pens on our 'āina, waste streams, public health, and keiki!

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:12:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laverne Moore	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Health & Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Laverne Moore, Retired Teacher

Position: Strong Support with Amendments

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committees,

My name is Laverne Moore and I am a retired teacher writing in Strong Support of SB2175 SD2, which aims to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i.

Having spent years in the classroom, I have witnessed firsthand the dual crisis these "single-use" products have created for our youth and our local environment. In my time as an educator, I saw how the discreet, colorful design of disposable vapes made them nearly impossible to monitor, leading to severe nicotine addiction, respiratory distress, and mental health struggles among students.

While I strongly support the intent of this bill, I respectfully request that the committee adopt the language from HB2121. Specifically, I ask for the following amendments to ensure the legislation is as effective as possible:

1. Remove the exemption for products on the FDA-authorized list.
2. Improve the definition of "disposable products" to prevent manufacturers from using loopholes to keep these harmful items on our shelves.

Because these devices are marketed as "disposable," students treat them as such. Our school grounds, parking lots, and nearby storm drains have become littered with "vape butts"—which are far more dangerous than traditional cigarette filters because they contain lithium-ion batteries and plastic casings that do not biodegrade. When discarded, residual nicotine and heavy metals leak directly into our soil and eventually our ocean.

As a teacher, I taught my students to be stewards of the ‘āina. For the health of our environment and our keiki, I urge you to pass SB2175 SD2 with the requested amendments to align it with the stronger protections found in HB2121.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Laverne Moore, Retired Teacher

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 7:03:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2175. I believe that disposable e-cigarettes should be banned because of their hazards to health and to the environment. Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 11:14:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Smalley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

I am in strong support of SB2175 SD2 and requesting amendments:

Requested amendments:

Please adopt the language from HB2121, which would remove the exemption for products on the FDA authorized list and improve the definition of disposable products.

Talking points:

- 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.

Mahalo Valerie Smalley

**LATE**

**SB-2175-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 2:24:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/25/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In Strong Support of.

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.

This is not in alignment with our state's health and environmental goals.

Thank you.