



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

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

REPRESENTATIVE SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026 2:00 PM

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 House Bill 2121, House Draft 1
6 (H.B. 2121, H.D. 1) prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable
7 electronic smoking devices in the State, and offers an amendment to address penalties for
8 violations.

9 **Department Testimony:** The environmental impact of disposable ESD consumption is alarming.
10 Appropriate handling guidelines are lacking, and most individuals have no other option but to
11 discard them in the regular trash.¹ This becomes dangerous because the lithium batteries are
12 prone to ignite and cause fires and the microplastics and chemicals inside the products can

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

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

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

9 At the same time disposable ESD sales soared, nicotine content in these products also
10 skyrocketed and prices lowered. According to the Truth Initiative, disposable ESDs in the U.S.
11 tripled in nicotine strength, quintupled in e-liquid capacity, and dropped in price by nearly 70%
12 between 2017 and 2022.⁷ Citing the unpredictable nicotine concentrations and risk to human
13 health and the environment the Environmental Protection Agency classified all nicotine
14 containing ESDs as acute hazardous waste when discarded.⁸ Besides nicotine, many ESDs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 contain other toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde, lead, and acrolein.^{9,10} Some ESDs are
2 designed with built-in video games and Bluetooth speakers and come in candy or fruity flavors
3 to attract youth.¹¹ According to the CDC Foundation’s Monitoring Tobacco Product Use project,
4 these high-tech, alluring ESD products deemed “disposable” due to their non-refillable nature,
5 account for 93% or 6,400 of the recorded 6,800 ESD products available for sale in the U.S.¹²

6 While the DOH supports H.B. 2121, H.D. 1, we do continue to recommend the more
7 comprehensive approach through H.B. 1573, H.D. 2, that establishes the ESD Directory and
8 penalties under the Department of the Attorney General.

9 **Offered Amendments:** The following amendment is offered for Section 2, page 3, line 19 to re-
10 letter subsection (c) to (d) and insert a new subsection (c) for penalties to read:

11 “(c) Violations of subsection (a) are subject to a fine of \$ _____ per day of each violation.

12 ~~(c)~~ (d) As used in this section, “disposable electronic smoking device” means an electronic
13 smoking device that is non-refillable, has a non-rechargeable battery, or is intended to be
14 disposed of after the contents inside the device have been used”

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

⁹ Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/frequent-questions-about-management-standards-hazardous-waste-pharmaceuticals-and#nicotine>.

¹⁰Salazar et al., “Elevated Toxic Element Emissions from Popular Disposable E-Cigarettes: Sources, Life Cycle, and Health Risks.”

¹¹ Commissioner, O. of the. (2025, September 30). *A Statement From FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, M.D., M.P.H.: Encouraging Retailers to Stop Selling Illegal Vapes*. FDA. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-marty-makary-md-mph-encouraging-retailers-stop-selling-illegal-vapes>

¹² CDC Foundation. (2025, September). *E-Cigarette & Tobacco Monitoring and Research*. Monitoring Tobacco Product Use. <https://tobaccomonitoring.org/>



Hawaii COPD Coalition

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hicopd@gmail.com

(808)699-9839

February 27, 2026

Honorable Chair Representative Scot Matayoshi
Honorable Vice-Chair Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

RE: **Strong Support for HB2121, HD1 Relating to Waste Management**

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children of our state and our entire state as well. **Please pass HB2121, HD1** Relating to Waste Management, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

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

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

Please help protect our aina and keep it from being littered by this debris that makes our state ever less desirable to live in or visit, plus is harmful to humans and the animals on land and in our ocean! The Hawaii COPD Coalition thanks you very much for your careful consideration of this most important and timely bill. **Please pass HB2121, HD1** Relating to Waste Management, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State, and help this very important bill become law.

Very truly yours,

Valerie Chang

Valerie Chang
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2121

TO: Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: March 3, 2026 (2:00 PM)

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

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

Unfortunately, many e-cigarettes end up as litter on roadsides, parks, and even in the ocean. The plastic, metals, batteries, and high nicotine concentration found in e-cigarettes are non-biodegradable and are harmful to the people and wildlife, particularly when they find their way into aquatic environments. It only takes a nicotine concentration of [7.5 parts per million to kill goldfish in twenty-four hours](#).

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
Chair

*John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics*

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Vice Chair

Hawai'i Health Partners

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Secretary

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Tammy Ho
The Queen's Medical Center

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Joyce Lee-Ibarra, MS
JLI Consulting

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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

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

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

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 1, 2026

To: Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection &
Commerce

Re: Strong Support for HB 2121 HD1, Relating to Waste Management

Hrg: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 2:00 PM, Room 329

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **Strong Support of HB 2121 HD1**, which would end the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

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

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

Bad for health.

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

Bad for the environment.

Disposable, single-use electronic smoking devices are a public health hazard. These products are made of non-biodegradable plastic containing nicotine and other hazardous chemicals, metals, wiring, and a lithium-ion battery. According to a 2023 study, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable electronic devices every second, nearly 500,000 per day.⁸ Over a year, this amounts to 150 million devices, creating a huge amount of hazardous waste.



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

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

Opportunity for state action.

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

We applaud the Legislature for helping to protect the health of our community and our environment by considering this measure, and thank this committee for your consideration of HB 2121 HD1.

We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 Hawai'i Health Matters. (n.d.). *Tobacco Prevention & Control 2030 Tracker.* Hawaii.

<https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?alias=Tobacco2030>



6 CDC Foundation. (2024, November 24). As National Sales of E-Cigarettes Climb, Report Shows that State Restrictions on Flavored Products Are Critical to Protect Young People.

<https://www.cdcfoundation.org/pr/2024/Monitoring-E-Cigarette-Trends-in-the-United-States-Report>

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

8 FY26 Vape Waste Report 2. (n.d.).

<https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PIRG-Vape-Waste-2.pdf>

9 Lithium-ion Battery Disposal. Department of Health. September 25, 2025.

https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/files/2025/11/FINAL_Residents-Lithium-Ion-Info-Sheet.pdf

10 HFD: Lithium-ion battery fires are on the rise. KHON. January 10, 2026.

<https://www.khon2.com/hawaii-fires/hfd-lithium-ion-battery-fires/>

11 Microplastics and our health: What the science says. Stanford Medicine. January 29, 2025.

<https://med.stanford.edu/news/insights/2025/01/microplastics-in-body-polluted-tiny-plastic-fragments.html>

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

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Re: **HB2121 HD1 – Relating to Waste Management**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
March 3, 2026, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB2121 HD1**. This bill prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State, beginning 1/1/2027.

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

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

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

³ <https://www.hiphi.org/tobacco/>



March 1, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB2121 HD1 RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES

Hrg: March 3rd at 2:00 PM

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

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

The Hawaii Public Health Association urges you to support HB2121 HD1.

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' in a cursive script.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

Hawaii Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (HAAP) would like to provide testimony in **strong support of HB 2121 HD1**, which would ban disposable vape products from being sold in Hawai'i starting in 2027. Not only is tobacco harmful to those who use it in any form, but disposable vapes pose unique risks to children and the environment. The lithium-ion batteries in the vapes pose a fire hazard when improperly disposed, which is likely 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. We have seen first-hand the harmful impacts of nicotine addiction in our adolescent patients, and we have seen discarded vapes washed up on our beaches, polluting the environment. For both these reasons, we strongly urge your support of HB2121 HD1.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

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



Chair - Representative Scot Matayoshi

Vice Chair - Representative Tina Gradinetti

Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

The CTFH Youth Council is a nationally recognized group of youth leaders fighting to envision and create a Hawai'i centered on uplifting community public health beyond the reaches of Big Tobacco. Our council comprises middle school, high school, and college students, with representation from across Hawai'i's counties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Hearing on 3-3-26

Testimony in Strong Opposition to House Bill 2121

Dear CPC Committee,

The Hawaii Smokers Alliance STRONGLY OPPOSES HB 2121) relating to the excessive and anti-competitive overregulation designed to damage or destroy our local vape retailers. Considering the Anti-smoking lobby source of this bill, there is no doubt that they would love to create a **costly and unworkable mess** for local businesses that sell these products.

If the “health” extremists promoting this bill think that it will lower smoking rates they will be sadly mistaken. The disposable vapes are the ones that are actually an enjoyable alternative for some people. Poorly made and bad tasting FDA “approved” vapes don’t work very well in “helping people quit”. This is the same FDA that rejected applications not because there was something wrong with the product, but because constituents might enjoy it too much.

Respectfully request that this mean spirited, anti-business, mess of a bill not leave the CPC committees. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Zehner, Co-chair of the Hawaii Smokers Alliance.

808-952-0275. Hawaiiismokersalliance.net

**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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909 496-1188

Valerie Woods
808 822-2420

Ron Wiley
808 245-9527

Tom Worthen
435 994-0023



March 2, 2026

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair; Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair; Members Rep. Cory M. Chun, Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Rep. Lisa Marten, Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Rep. Elijah Pierick, and Rep. Sam Satoru Kong

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Strong Support for HB 2121 HD1, Relating to Waste Management—Waste Management; Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices; Sale, Offer for Sale, Distribution; Prohibition

Aloha House Committee on Health,

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

Picking up litter is one of our recurring tasks, and we are clearing away more and more e-cigarette rubbish. We were sorry to learn that in 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 million e-cigarettes, nearly 500,000 per day. The debris created by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns for researchers, noting potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic life due to plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine.

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

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

Mahalo for your attention to this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tommy A. Noyes'.

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

Date: March 2, 2026

LATE

To: Chair Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi
Vice Chair Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti
And members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 2:00 pm CR 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2121. The University of Hawai'i Student Health Advisory Council has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of health policies and tobacco education on the UH System campuses. We remain deeply committed to the mission of reducing the use of all tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, especially amongst adolescents and young adults. As a result, we are in strong support of a ban on the sale of all disposable electronic smoking devices.

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

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

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

Mahalo from the Student Health Advisory Council

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 2:42:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill to prohibit the sale of disposable vapes.

Mahalo.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 3:37:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2121 HD1. Disposable e-cigarettes are single-use plastic items that negatively impact our environment. They leach heavy metals, toxic chemicals and plastics into our fragile environment, create wild fire hazards in our islands and fires in our solid waste facilities.

There is no way to properly dispose of these items in our state and by ending their sale we protect our aquifer, reduce microplastics, and protect against wildfires. Please pass HB 2121 HD1.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 3:53:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 3:59:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2121 HD1.

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration of this important legislation.

Katie Folio
Kula, Maui resident

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 4:02:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Jay Ihara, and I strongly support HB2121 HD1.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 4:06:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Shani "Kai" Carvalho and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2121 HD1 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. As a Tobacco Treatment Specialist I see how it affects adults and youth who use disposable e-cigarettes and the addiction that comes with it causing harm on their bodies. However not only are disposable e-cigarettes harmful to our kino (body) but it also brings harm to our honua (earth). Everyday hundreds of thousands of e-cigarettes are being discarded in the US alone all of which have non-biodegradable plastics that are infiltrating our 'āina. We see these devices in the grass at our parks, on the beach, in the ocean, where it can cause great danger to our sea creatures as well. Please help us protect our land, oceans and our earth by ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. Mahalo.

Date: February 27, 2026

To: The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: **Support for HB2121 HD1**, Relating to Waste Management

Hrg: Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm via Videoconference Conference Room 329

Aloha House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong support of HB2121 HD1**, which prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

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

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

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

I **strongly support HB2121 HD1**, respectfully ask you to pass it out of committee to help create a safer Hawai'i for all of us.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:04:36 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please keep this measure moving to become law.

HB 2121

Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

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

Respectfully,

Linda Weiner, MD

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:34:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Braun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a long-time educator in the Hawaii school system, testifying as an individual.

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,

Kathryn Braun, Punchbowl

March 3, 2026

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce members.

I am writing in strong support of HB2121, HD1 “Relating to Waste Management.”

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

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

I urge you to support HB 2121, HD1 to help reign in the illegal sale and use of those products and to support the Hawaii Attorney General’s office in enforcing against their illegal sale to minors.

Mahalo for your attention to this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman
Kailua, HI

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 1:35:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Health & Homelessness / Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Inam Rahman, MD

Waipahu, Hawaii

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2121 HD1 – Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

DATE: [Insert Hearing Date]

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB 2121 HD1, which would prohibit the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices in Hawaii.

As a physician and community advocate, I have witnessed firsthand the growing public health impact of nicotine addiction among adolescents and young adults. Disposable e-cigarettes are uniquely problematic: they are inexpensive, flavored, highly concentrated in nicotine salts, and easily concealed. These characteristics have made them disproportionately attractive to youth.

At the same time, disposable vaping devices create a parallel environmental crisis. Each unit contains a lithium-ion battery, plastic casing, heavy metals such as lead and nickel, and residual nicotine. In a state with limited landfill capacity and fragile island ecosystems, millions of improperly discarded single-use devices pose a long-term environmental and fire hazard risk.

HB 2121 HD1 addresses both public health and environmental stewardship — a dual crisis that is particularly acute in Hawaii.

Rationale for Support

1-Youth Addiction Prevention

Disposable devices have played a central role in the rise of youth nicotine dependency. Prohibiting their sale removes one of the most accessible and youth-targeted nicotine delivery systems.

2-Environmental Protection

Hawaii's isolated geography magnifies waste management challenges. Lithium battery fires in waste streams are increasing nationwide. A prohibition reduces hazardous waste entering our landfills and coastal ecosystems.

3-Public Cost Containment

County waste systems and emergency services absorb costs associated with disposal, battery fires, and environmental mitigation. Preventing the sale of these products reduces downstream public expense.

Recommended Strengthening Amendments

To ensure the bill is both effective and economically responsible, I respectfully suggest the following amendments:

1. Allow Regulated Refillable / Rechargeable Devices

Clarify that the prohibition applies strictly to single-use disposable devices, while allowing regulated reusable systems. This preserves harm-reduction pathways for adult smokers attempting to transition from combustible cigarettes.

2. Provide a Structured Transition Period

Include a 6–12 month implementation period to allow retailers to:

- Deplete existing inventory
- Adjust business models
- Avoid abrupt economic harm

3. Allocate Revenue for Youth Prevention and Enforcement

If civil penalties are imposed for violations, direct a portion of collected funds toward:

- Youth tobacco prevention programs
- Compliance inspections
- Public education campaigns

4. Commission a Fiscal and Environmental Impact Report

Require a report within two years assessing:

- Youth vaping trends
- Environmental waste reduction
- Enforcement costs
- Market displacement effects

This ensures evidence-based review and policy refinement.

Conclusion

HB 2121 HD1 reflects prudent public health policy and responsible environmental stewardship. Disposable vaping devices represent a uniquely harmful convergence of youth addiction risk and environmental waste burden.

With thoughtful amendments to protect adult harm-reduction options and provide a reasonable retail transition, this measure can strike a balanced and forward-looking approach for Hawaii.

For the health of our keiki and the protection of our islands, I respectfully urge passage of HB 2121 HD1 with the suggested amendments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Inam Rahman, MD

Waipahu, Hawaii

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 1:52:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

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 and will harm our precious ocean resources. 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 Hyw.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:14:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Vice-Chair Grandinetti,

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

With aloha,

Dave Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:38:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Magonigle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure addressing disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i.

Disposable e-cigarettes pose serious risks to both **public health and our environment**. These products contain hazardous plastics, toxic chemicals, and lithium-ion batteries that are frequently discarded improperly. As these materials break down, they can leach harmful substances into our environment, contributing to pollution and creating fire hazards in landfills and waste facilities.

In addition to environmental harm, disposable e-cigarettes present significant health concerns. These devices often contain **higher nicotine concentrations than earlier generations of e-cigarettes**, increasing the likelihood of nicotine dependence and addiction—particularly among youth and young adults.

The scale of the problem is alarming. In 2023 alone, Americans discarded an estimated **5.7 disposable e-cigarettes every second**, totaling nearly **500,000 per day**, or approximately **150 million devices annually**. The resulting debris has raised concerns among researchers regarding potential impacts on water quality and aquatic life due to plastics, metals, batteries, and residual nicotine.

Hawai‘i’s unique environment and fragile ecosystems make it especially important that we take proactive steps to reduce preventable sources of toxic waste and protect community health. This bill is a meaningful step toward reducing hazardous waste, limiting youth exposure to high-nicotine products, and creating safer, healthier communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai‘i for all.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 4:52:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill!

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 5:18:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Moreno-Chow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Disposable e-cigarettes present a serious threat to both public health and our environment. These devices contain persistent plastics, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and lithium-ion batteries that can leach into our soil and water, contribute to fires, and create long-lasting hazardous waste. They also deliver significantly higher nicotine concentrations than earlier generations of e-cigarettes, driving high addiction rates among users, including our youth. I respectfully urge you to pass this bill to reduce these harms and help ensure a safer, healthier Hawai'i for all

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:12:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP

Pediatrician

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 11:31:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB2121 to end the sale or disposable e-cigarettes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service MSW

Child Welfare Supervisor (ret.)

Passionate Kupuna advocate

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 12:29:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee.

My name is An and I'm a college public health student on O'ahu. I'm testifying in strong support of HB2121 HD1 to end the sale of disposable vapes.

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

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

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

I urge you to support HB2121 HD1 to end the sale of disposable vapes. Mahalo for caring about Hawai'i's keiki and kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa,
An
Honolulu, HI

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:27:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

03-01-26

RE: HB2121 HD1

Aloha mai,

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. MOre, importantly, for me, these disposable e-cigarettes **are a serious health threat, ointergenerationally**. 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.

I am in strong support of this Bill.

Mahalo a nui,

John A H Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW

51 Kuula St., Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:41:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

Testimony in Support of HB 2121

Relating to Waste Management

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC) **Hearing Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 2:00 PM **From:** Laverne Moore, Former Educator

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support of HB 2121**, which would prohibit the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices in our state. 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.

The Impact on Student Health

In my time as an educator, I saw how the discreet, colorful design of disposable vapes made them nearly impossible to monitor. Unlike older tobacco products, these devices are designed for rapid, high-nicotine consumption. I have seen students struggle with:

- **Severe Nicotine Addiction:** Not just a "habit," but a physiological dependence that causes irritability and loss of focus in class.
- **Respiratory Distress:** Seeing vibrant, athletic students suddenly struggling with shortness of breath or chronic coughs.
- **Mental Health Struggles:** The "crash" from high-dose nicotine pods often contributes to increased anxiety and mood swings among teenagers.

The Environmental Toll on Our Campuses

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.

- **Hazardous Waste:** Unlike paper filters, these contain **lithium-ion batteries** and plastic casings that do not biodegrade.
- **Chemical Leaching:** When discarded in our gutters, the residual nicotine and heavy metals from the heating coils leak directly into our soil and eventually our ocean.

As a teacher, I taught my students to be stewards of the 'āina. It is contradictory to allow the sale of a product designed to be used for a few days and then thrown into a landfill (or onto a sidewalk) where its battery and chemicals will persist for decades.

HB 2121 is a necessary step to protect our students' lungs and our islands' future. I urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

Laverne Moore, Former Educator

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 12:36:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

The Environmental Crisis of Disposable Vapes

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

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

A Problem of Design

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

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

Protecting Our Keiki

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

The Bigger Picture

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

A Cleaner, Healthier Hawai'i

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 2:26:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

Lynne Matusow

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:07:07 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:43:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of.. Thank you.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:12:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY SUPPORT 2121 HB RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT.

TO INCLUDE DEVICE BE RETURNED TO THE RETAILER FOR PROPER DISPOSAL.

TO INCLUDE A DISPOSAL FEE TO EACH DEVISE. SUCH AS THE HI 5 FEE.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:59:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Kristin Mills

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:11:32 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Vice Chairs,

I am in strong support of HB2121 HD1:

- 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.

Thank You Valerie Smalley

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:59:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Scharnhorst	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:16:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emry Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

My name is Emry, and I am a 9th-grade student at Punahou School, testifying in support of HB2121, which prohibits the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Not only are disposable e-cigarettes incredibly destructive to the environment, but getting rid of them is very likely to lower the number of nearly 46% of Hawaii high schoolers who vape daily. While I have never vaped or indulged in any activity regarding an e-cigarette, I have personally witnessed the effects of vaping and nicotine addiction within my own family. After vaping habitually for a short period of time, a loved one of mine was completely changed as a person. I watched them go from a fun, carefree, and kind human being to someone nervous and paranoid, struggling to battle their addiction. The person I once knew is nowhere to be found, and they transformed in high school, when they started vaping. But how could you blame them when the flavours displayed on the colourful labels are things like "Watermelon Blast" and "Vanilla Custard," names also found on your 5-year-old kids' Tutti Frutti gum package (although I know it was entirely their choice and the consequences will be something they battle for the rest of their lives). Banning disposable e-cigarettes will not stop all vaping, and it certainly will not change the manufacturer's mind about heavily targeting youth, but it will make a difference to every one of those teenagers' lives when they aren't surrounded by the constant temptation and pressure to start vaping. That impact can keep families together, save relationships, and overall make a greater impact on our Hawaii community in the long run.

Thank you so much for listening,

Emry P.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:40:44 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kingdon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislators:

I am writing with strong support of HB2121. I am a resident of Maui. As an active walker, runner, and bicycle commuter, you can imagine that unfortunately I often see opala littering our otherwise-beautiful landscape. As a beach-goer and sailor, I also see this trash in our oceans. The proliferation of these 'disposable' e-cigarette and vaping devices cast aside from mauka to makai has been notable, alarming, and disturbing. Unfortunately we cannot realistically control all the factors negatively affecting our environment, but this is something that the legislature can do - and it will make a difference.

As a paramedic and public health researcher and practitioner, I also concur with the Hawaii Public Health Institute in their following observations and recommendations.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:54:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrina Leolani Angelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on the Environmental and Public Health Harms of Disposable E-Cigarettes

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Audrina Lani Angelo, and I am here to address the growing environmental and public health threats posed by disposable e-cigarettes.

In 2023 alone, Americans discarded approximately 5.7 million e-cigarettes every single second—adding up to nearly 500,000 devices tossed out each day. This staggering volume of waste is not only unsustainable, but also dangerous.

The debris from disposable e-cigarettes is now raising significant concerns among environmental researchers. These products contain **plastics, heavy metals, lithium-ion batteries, and residual nicotine**, all of which can leach into soil and waterways. When these substances enter the environment, they threaten **water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and the health of communities that rely on those water sources.**

Compounding the issue, disposable e-cigarettes often contain **higher nicotine concentrations than earlier generations of vaping devices**, increasing their addictive potential and accelerating consumption—and therefore disposal.

Another critical concern is the presence of **non-biodegradable materials and built-in lithium-ion batteries**. When discarded improperly—as most disposables are—these batteries can **leach hazardous chemicals**, contaminate landfills, and even create **fire risks** during transport or waste processing.

What we are witnessing is a rapidly escalating environmental hazard fueled by a product designed for single use, high consumption, and easy disposal. Without meaningful action, these devices will continue to accumulate in our environment, endanger ecosystems, and pose long-term health and safety risks.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Audrina L. Angelo

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:25:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will be a business killer for vape shops.

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:12:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

RE: Strong Support for HB2121, HD1 Relating to Waste Management

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Cyd Hoffeld and I am a community health educator on Hawai'i Island. I am asking you to **strongly pass HB2121 HD1**, Relating to Waste Management, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

I teach in many schools across East Hawai'I and often hear stories from teachers about their experiences with student vaping on campus. A very big concern amongst teachers and school administrators is the safety hazard of collecting, storing and disposing of vaping products. There have been more stories on the news regarding exploding electronic smoking devices on planes and the continued banning of these devices.

Below are a few statistics on the hazards these devices cause:

- 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 keiki, schools, and environment by **strongly pass HB2121, HD1** Relating to Waste Management, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

Mahalo nui,

Cyd L. Hoffeld

Community Health Educator

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:16:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair Tina Grandinetti, & Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Luke Itomura

Chair - Rep. Scot Matayoshi
Vice Chair - Rep. Tina Grandinetti
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

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

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

Amelia
Honolulu

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for this opportunity!

Saber Holkup

Aloha Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

My name is Taylor Wong and I am in strong support for HB212 which ends the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

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

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

Mahalo for your time,
Taylor Wong

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:40:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary santa maria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2121.

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

Protect health and environment....PASS HB2121

Thank you

Mary Santa Maria

Makawao

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:16:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Beaver	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. Our children deserve a life without these horrific devices and the devastation that is caused by the very existence of them. Our youth faces incredible challenges every day as they progress toward adulthood. We HAVE to stop adding to this incredible load by making these devices available!

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:29:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

As a long time public health advocate, I am in strong support of HB2121 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 Bill 2121 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.

LATE

HB-2121-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:14:36 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Okihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician for over 25 years, I have seen the negative impact of nicotine, including e-cigarettes, on the health and well-being of too many community members, starting from a young age. The negative impact of disposable e-cigarettes is compounded by their toll on our ‘āina and kai. As such - I strongly support HB2121HD