



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2121, H.D. 2
RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOPE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: March 20, 2026
9:30 AM

Room Number: Conference Room 229
and Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of a ban on disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs)
- 2 in Hawaii would result in modest reductions in Hawaii's tax revenues while at the same time
- 3 leading to reductions in chronic diseases and health care spending, including Medicaid
- 4 spending, in the state.

- 5 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Bill 2121, House Draft 2
- 6 (H.B. 2121, H.D. 2) which prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any
- 7 disposable (ESDs) in the State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁸ Federal Register/ Vol. 84, No. 36/ Friday, February 22, 2019/ Rules and Regulations (5816). [Environmental Protection Agency. 40 CFR. V. Amendment to the Acute Hazardous Waste Listing for Nicotine and Salts \(Hazardous Waste No. P075\).](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/02/22/2019-04111/environmental-protection-agency-40-cfr-v-amendment-to-the-acute-hazardous-waste-listing-for-nicotine-and-salts-hazardous-waste-no-p075)

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

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

6 The DOH supports H.B. 2121, H.D. 2, and find it compatible with the comprehensive
7 approach through H.B. 1573, H.D. 3, that establishes the ESD Directory and penalties under the
8 Department of the Attorney General.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

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

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

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

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



Chair - Senator Joy San Buenaventura & Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair - Rep. Angus McKelvey & Senator Carol Fukunaga
Members of the Committee on Health &
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

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

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



HIPHI Board

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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 17, 2026

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

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

Hrg: Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM, Room 229

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **Strong Support of HB 2121 HD2**, 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.



March 17, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

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

Hrg: March 20, 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.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

**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

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Valerie Woods
808 822-2420

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Tom Worthen
435 994-0023



March 17, 2026

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Friday, March 20, 2026

**Strong Support for HB 2121, HD2, Relating to Waste Management—Waste Management;
Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices; Sale, Offer for Sale, Distribution; Prohibition**

Aloha House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce Members,

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your attention to this testimony.

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



Hawaii COPD Coalition

P O Box 240053

Honolulu, HI 96824

hicopd@gmail.com

(808)699-9839

March 17, 2026

Honorable Chairs Senator Keohokalole and San Buenaventura
Honorable Vice-Chairs Senators Fukunaga and McKelvey
Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce & Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services

RE: **Strong Support for HB2121, HD2 Relating to Waste Management**

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

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children of our state and our entire state as well. **Please pass HB2121, HD2** 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, HD2** 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

To: Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and on Health and Human Services
Re: **HB2121 HD2 – Relating to Waste Management**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
March 20, 2026, 9:30 AM

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and McKelvey, and Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/YRBSSelection.html>

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

³ <https://www.hiphi.org/tobacco/>

Hawaii Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice-Chairs Fukunaga and McKelvey, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (HAAP) would like to provide testimony in **strong support of HB 2121 HD2**, 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 HD2.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

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

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:46:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani "Kai" Carvalho	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Shani "Kai" Carvalho and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2121 HD2 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. As a Tobacco Treatment Specialist I see how it affects adults and youth who use disposable e-cigarettes and the addiction that comes with it causing harm on their bodies. However not only are disposable e-cigarettes harmful to our kino (body) but it also brings harm to our honua (earth). Everyday hundreds of thousands of e-cigarettes are being discarded in the US alone all of which have non-biodegradable plastics that are infiltrating our ‘āina. We see these devices in the grass at our parks, on the beach, in the ocean, where it can cause great danger to our sea creatures as well. Please help us protect our land, oceans and our earth by ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. Mahalo.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:06:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2121. Disposable e-cigarettes are 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.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:31:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committees,

My name is Laverne Moore, and I am writing to you today as a retired Special Education teacher with decades of experience in Hawaii’s public schools. I am voicing my strong support for [HB 2121 HD2](#), which would prohibit the sale and distribution of disposable electronic smoking devices in our State.

Throughout my career, I worked with some of our most vulnerable students—children who often face significant health, sensory, and behavioral challenges. From my perspective in the classroom, this bill is a necessary step for three critical reasons:

1. Protecting Developing Brains and Bodies

As an educator, I witnessed firsthand the "vaping epidemic" take hold. For students with learning disabilities or neurodivergent needs, nicotine addiction can be even more disruptive to focus, emotional regulation, and impulse control. Disposable vapes, with their bright colors and dessert-like flavors, are designed specifically to appeal to youth, acting as a gateway to lifelong addiction.

2. Environmental and Safety Hazards

In the classroom and on school grounds, disposable vapes aren't just a health risk; they are a waste nightmare. These devices contain lithium-ion batteries and heavy metals. When students "flush" them or toss them in standard trash cans to avoid detection, they create fire hazards and leak toxic chemicals into our environment. As a Special Education teacher, I taught my students the importance of being good stewards of the ‘āina; continuing to allow these single-use plastic and chemical-laden devices contradicts everything we teach our children about sustainability.

3. Ending the "Disposable" Culture

The "disposable" nature of these products encourages a culture of waste. For children who struggle with executive functioning, the accessibility and "easy-to-hide" nature of these small, throw-away devices make them nearly impossible for teachers and parents to

monitor effectively. By removing them from the market, we create a safer, cleaner environment for our keiki to grow.

We have a responsibility to prioritize the health of our children and the health of our islands over the profits of the tobacco and vaping industries. [HB2121 HD2](#) is a common-sense measure that will protect our students from addiction and our environment from unnecessary toxic waste.

I urge the committees to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Laverne Moore, Retired Special Education Teacher

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:05:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Karen Parsell Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a pediatrician at Kapi'olani Medical Center and am asking for you to kindly strongly support this bill for the children of Hawai'i.

Re: **HB2121**- RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT- IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD and I am a pediatrician on Maui where I have been treating keiki for the last 12 years. My testimony is my own and not representative of others. I am writing to testify in support of HB2121 to help reduce the use/selling of disposable electronic smoking devices. This bill will be a big step forward to protect our keiki from the dangers of smoking devices and prevent addiction and bad health outcomes. It will also help protect our environment from plastics/litter that plagues our ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns on this important issue for our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD
Pediatrics Chair, CCM

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:13:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey and members of the Committees on Commerce & Consumer Protection & Health & Human Services:

As a long time public health advocate, I am in strong support of HB2121HD2 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 HB2121 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.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:04:26 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

Linda Kim, APRN

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:14:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB2121 HD2

Aloha mai,

Disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis of severe environmental pollution and public health risks. As a Public Health Advocate and retired Social Worker, I know that 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. So, they are a public health hazard *and* an environmental hazard as well.

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of [HB 2121 HD2](#), which would prohibit the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i.

Me ka mahalo,

H+

John A H Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW

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

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:16:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:34:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

Per the Hawai‘i 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.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:22:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Tagad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 25 years old, and I've witnessed firsthand the rapid rise of electronic cigarettes in Hawaii.

In middle school, it was my parents who were vaping. By high school, it was my friends. In high school, It was incredibly easy for us to get our hands on vapes—whether it was using an older sibling's ID, asking strangers outside stores, or, at times, even being sold to directly by businesses.

Today, the situation feels even more alarming.

I now see middle school students vaping regularly—not just nicotine, but sometimes THC as well. On March 9, 2026, I witnessed middle schoolers openly using nicotine pouches, talking about them with excitement as if it were something normal.

This is not normal.

If we don't take action now, the long-term effects of nicotine addiction will continue to harm our communities and put our keiki's futures at risk. For many in my generation, vaping became a gateway into stronger nicotine dependence and, in some cases, other substances.

What's most concerning is that nearly everyone I know who vapes says the same thing: they want to quit. But the accessibility and convenience of these products make it incredibly difficult. When something is this easy to obtain, quitting becomes an uphill battle.

We have a responsibility to protect the next generation from developing these habits even earlier than we did.

I strongly support banning the sale of electronic disposable cigarettes to reduce access, protect our youth, and create a healthier future for our community.

I am writing to express support for HB 2121. E-cigarettes are harmful to the environment and to public health. Numerous fires and explosions have resulted in Hawaii because of lithium batteries being disposed of improperly. With no convenient way to dispose of e-cigarettes, as e-waste sites are few and far between, residents often toss these in with their household rubbish. When this rubbish is broken down at waste-to-energy facilities, it has resulted in fires and explosions which jeopardize the employees' safety. Incidents of sporadic combustion of these devices has been reported as well.

Nicotine is harmful, being addictive, and carcinogenic. Regulatory guidance on its manufacturing is confusing for consumers to make choices on its use, incorrectly believing that it is acceptable because its reportedly less harmful than cigarettes but still causes significant harm to the respiratory system and to fetuses.

Our community would benefit from not having additional risks of fire and explosions from e-cigarettes and be healthier without its impact.

I fully support banning this hazardous product.

Thank you,

Brieanne Lacaillade, Master of Public Health

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:42:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Time to protect youth and the environment from vaping.

The state will untimely bear many of the costs, otherwise.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:36:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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

54-04 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:59:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

:(

March 20s, 2026

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and McKelvey, and members of the Senate committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services,

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

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

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

I urge you to support HB 2121, HD2 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-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:55:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, for the health of Hawaii's youth!

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:34:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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.

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

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:54:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Health & Human Services Committee, and Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee.

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

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

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

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

I urge you to support HB2121 HD2 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-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:27:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Beaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Date: March 18, 2026

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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

Hrg: Friday March 20, 2026 at 9:30 am Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services,

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

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

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

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

I **strongly support HB2121 HD2**, 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-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:17:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

Lynne Matusow

HB 2121

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-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:06:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Vice Chairs,

As a mom, grandmother and tobacco treatment specialist I strongly support HB2121 HD2:

- 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 for taking the time to review this bill.

Valerie Smalley

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 2:10:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:50:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill will kill business for small local vape shops.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:55:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We must pass this bill. It is of the utmost importance to protect our youth from addiction and our aina and wai from pollution.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:08:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the members of the Committee,

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

With aloha,

Dave Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:36:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill to protect our fragile ecosystems from disposable vapes. Mahalo.

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:43:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:59:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members-

I am writing in **strong support of HB 2121 HD2**, Relating to Waste Management. As a nurse with a graduate degree in environmental and occupational health and the mother of a teenager, I have grave concerns about disposable electronic smoking devices for both the health of humans and our environment in Hawai'i. Tobacco remains the number 1 preventable cause of disease in our state, with negative impacts on the brain, the hear, the lungs, as well as mental health, and our youth are using vape products at alarming rates. Tobacco companies are creating disposable products that are stronger, cheaper, and easier to hide, making them even more appealing to youth and damaging to health. Meanwhile, over 1000 e-cigarettes are thrown away every day in our state, putting lithium-ion batteries, plastics, toxic lead, and carcinogens into our waste streams and 'Āina. I stil have a shocking image in my mind of trash cans filling up with confiscated vapes in line to attend a free outdoor music event at our cultural center.

We have a responsiblity to care for our people and our land, and with this bill we have an opportunity to make a change for the better. Please **support HB2121** and prevent further proliferation of these dangerous and wasteful electronic cigarette devices in our state of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Kathleen Hagan, MS, APRN-BC, CNE

Pā'ia, Maui

Chair - Senator. Joy San Buenaventura & Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair - Rep. Angus McKelvey & Senator Carol Fukunaga
Members of the Committee on Health & Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

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

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carole Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health 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: Friday, March 20, 2026, 9:30am, Conference Room 229

RE: **HB2121 HD2 Relating to Waste Management**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HB2121 HD2**. This measure would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State, 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 **HB2121 HD2**.

LATE

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 11:47:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I stand in strong support the HB2121. Beaches and Parks and ocean suffer greatly from ecigs being toss when they are done. Save our environment. Pass the HB2121. Thank you for your support.

Mary Santa Maria

Makawao

LATE

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 12:05:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We stand on our previous testimony in opposition to this anti-small Business bill.

LATE

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:01:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Aloha Senators and Committee Members,

My name is Cyd Hoffeld, and I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2121 HD2**, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of single-use disposable electronic smoking devices in Hawai‘i starting **January 1, 2027**. These devices represent a growing crisis that endangers both our public health and our unique island environment.

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

- **Environmental Destruction:** Disposable vapes are an environmental nightmare, introducing a cocktail of **dangerous plastics, toxic heavy metals (like lead and mercury), and hazardous chemicals** into our soil and waterways. Because they are designed to be thrown away, they often end up as non-biodegradable litter on our beaches and in our storm drains.
- **Fire Hazards:** These devices contain **lithium-ion batteries** that cannot be safely processed by standard waste facilities. When crushed in garbage trucks or landfills, they can spark "zombie fires" that pose significant risks to workers and local infrastructure.
- **High Addiction Rates:** Modern disposable e-cigarettes often contain significantly **higher nicotine concentrations** than previous generations, delivered via nicotine salts that make them easier to inhale and harder to quit. This has led to skyrocketing addiction rates, particularly among our youth, whose developing brains are uniquely vulnerable to the long-term effects of nicotine.
- **Toxic Aerosols:** The "vapor" produced by these devices is a harmful aerosol containing **formaldehyde, acrolein, and other carcinogens**. Passing **HB2121 HD2** is a necessary step to protect our community from these known toxins.

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

Please support and pass **HB2121 HD2**.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to protecting our islands.

Mahalo,

Cyd L. Hoffeld

LATE

HB-2121-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 2:18:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mickal Henderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The ease at which our keiki are able to get disposable vapes; or e-cig devices is deplorable. I am a member of gen-z, born 1998. I was in Highschool when I saw vapes being first popularized. My generation was a part of the largest downward trend in commercialized smoking since its inception. We were going to be the generation that never picked it up.

E-cigs and disposable vapes, hit the market as healthier, less smelly alternatives for chronic smokers. However, the flavors and colors used were specifically modified to target the youth. I have since had 3 younger siblings addicted to vapes, one as early as the third grade. One may attribute that wholly to anecdotal circumstance; however I have worked directly with our youth for our years and can confidently say the youth are starting early and in greater number. I have the lived experience that all of the data backs up.

E-cigs create long-lasting issues that exasperate anxiety, stress, and the likelihood to try other, more risky behaviors, in a digital age that already increases it. Whatever benefits, or ease of use disposables allow, it pales in comparison to the future of our youth and the protection of our Aina. These vapes are just being recycled and created a new. They are being trashed when done and we are placing them into our lands and oceans. Lithium batteries, plastic, we are poisoning our future and our home all to allow corporations to make more profit.

We must limit the freedom of choice today, so that we can ensure our keiki and community the freedoms of tomorrow, unshackled by the hidden effects and financial cuffs of Nicotine. Mahalo!