



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1
RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES**

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

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026
2:05 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 Senate Bill 2175, Senate Draft 2,
6 House Draft 1 (S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1) which would prohibit selling, offering for sale, or
7 distributing certain disposable ESDs.

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

¹ Public Health Law Center. (2020, January 15). *Much Ado About Nothing: FDA's Lackluster Effort to Restrict Flavors* | Public Health Law Center. <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/commentary/200108/much-ado-about-nothing-fdas-lackluster-effort-restrict-flavors>

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

1 26.0% to 56.5% between February 2020 and September 2025.³ Besides nicotine, which is
2 recognized as acute hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency, many ESDs
3 contain other toxic chemicals and heavy metals such as chromium, lead, and nickel.^{4,5,6} Some
4 ESDs are designed with built-in video games and Bluetooth speakers and come in candy or
5 fruity flavors to attract youth.⁷ According to the CDC Foundation’s Monitoring Tobacco Product
6 Use project, these high-tech, alluring ESD products deemed “disposable” due to their non-
7 refillable nature, account for 93% or 6,400 of the recorded 6,800 ESD products available for sale
8 in the U.S.⁸

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 2022.⁹

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

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

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

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

⁶ 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/2019/02/22/2019-04341/environmental-protection-agency-40-cfr-v-amendment-to-the-acute-hazardous-waste-listing-for-nicotine-and-salts-hazardous-waste-no-p075)

⁷ Commissioner, O. of the. (2025, September 30). *A Statement From FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, M.D., M.P.H.: Encouraging Retailers to Stop Selling Illegal Vapes*. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-marty-makary-md-mp-h-encouraging-retailers-stop-selling-illegal-vapes>

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

⁹ Diaz, M. C., Silver, N. A., Bertrand, A., & Schillo, B. A. (2025). Bigger, stronger, and cheaper: Growth in e-cigarette market driven by disposable devices with more e-liquid, higher nicotine concentration and declining prices. *Tobacco Control*, 34(1), 65–70. <https://doi.org/10.1136/tc-2023-058033>

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

6 Researchers are also increasingly confirming the harmful effects of ESDs on human
7 health. In their assessment of current scientific evidence published on March 30, 2026, Stewart
8 and other researchers conclude that ESDs are likely to increase the risk for oral and lung
9 cancers.¹³ This is in addition to the growing evidence that the risk of heart disease and stroke,
10 and other diseases through ESDs and cigarette use are similar.¹⁴

11 The DOH supports S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 to stem the environmental and health harms
12 from disposable ESDs. The DOH also finds S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 compatible with the
13 comprehensive approach through House Bill 1573, H.D. 3, S.D. 1 that establishes the ESD
14 Directory and penalties under the Department of the Attorney General.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

¹⁰ Truth Initiative. (2025, April). *Another reason to quit vaping? The environmental impact of e-cigarettes*. <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/another-reason-quit-vaping-environmental-impact-e>

¹¹ 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>

¹² 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>

¹³ Stewart, B. W., Marshall, H., Bonevski, B., Griffin, H. J., Hopkins, A. M., Itchins, M., Mazza, C. J., Modi, N. D., Ryan, M., Varlow, M., & Sitas, F. (2026). The carcinogenicity of e-cigarettes: A qualitative risk assessment. *Carcinogenesis*, 47(1), bgag015. <https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/bgag015>

¹⁴ Glantz, S. A., Nguyen, N., & Oliveira da Silva, A. L. (2024). Population-Based Disease Odds for E-Cigarettes and Dual Use versus Cigarettes. *NEJM Evidence*, 3(3), EVIDoA2300229. <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDoA2300229>



Chair - Representative Scot Matayoshi
Vice Chair - Representative Tina Grandinetti
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 SB2175**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SB2175 SD2 HD1 End Disposable E-Cig

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Apr 7, 2026: 2:05: Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2175 SD2 HD1:

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

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

This is concerning because:

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

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



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

**IN OPPOSITION WITH COMMENTS TO SB 2175, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES**

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:05 PM
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

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

RMH respectfully offers opposition with comments on SB 2175, SD2, HD1.

We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding youth access, nicotine addiction, environmental impacts, and the disposal of lithium-ion batteries contained in disposable electronic smoking devices. These are important issues, and we share the goal of protecting Hawai'i's youth and reducing hazardous waste in our communities.

However, **this measure proposes a full prohibition on a single product category rather than addressing the broader policy and infrastructure issues that are driving the environmental concerns identified in the bill.**

The legislative findings focus heavily on improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries and associated fire risk. This is a legitimate concern. However, lithium-ion batteries are now present in a wide range of consumer products sold in retail stores, including small electronics, rechargeable accessories, toys, and household devices. **Hawai'i currently lacks a convenient, consistent, and widely utilized statewide battery recycling and disposal system.** Addressing disposal challenges for one product category without creating a broader battery recovery framework may not materially reduce the underlying waste stream or safety risks.

RMH respectfully suggests that a comprehensive battery recycling and/or take-back program, public education, and clearly defined disposal standards across all consumer lithium battery products may provide a more effective and durable solution.

Additionally, **Hawai'i already prohibits the sale of electronic smoking devices to individuals under the age of 21.** If youth usage remains high, it suggests enforcement and compliance challenges under existing law. A complete product ban may shift demand to unregulated or illicit markets, where age verification, product safety, and accountability are significantly reduced.

This measure would also impact licensed, law-abiding retailers who currently operate within strict regulatory requirements, including ID verification and compliance training. Policymakers may wish to consider whether strengthening enforcement, increasing penalties for illegal sales to minors, and improving retailer compliance tools would more directly address youth access concerns.

RMH also notes that bans focused on a single product category may not reduce overall waste but instead shift consumers toward alternative products that may contain similar plastic components or batteries. **A broader waste reduction strategy, combined with safe disposal infrastructure, may better align with the environmental intent described in the bill.**

Given these considerations, RMH respectfully suggests the Legislature consider a more balanced approach, including:

- strengthening enforcement of existing under-21 sales restrictions
- increased penalties for illegal sales to minors
- statewide lithium battery recycling and disposal programs
- manufacturer, distributor or retailer-supported take-back or recycling program
- consumer education on safe disposal of electronic devices
- consistent regulation across similar battery-containing products

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition with comments** on this measure.



HIPHI Board

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

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Vice Chair
Hawai'i Health Partners

Titimaea Ta'ase, JD
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Taase Law Office

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Kaiser Permanente

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The Queen's Medical Center

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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: April 3, 2026

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

Re: Strong Support for SB 2175 SD2 HD1, Relating to Disposable Electronic
Smoking Devices

Hrg: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 2:05 PM, Room 329

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **Strong Support of SB 2175 SD2 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

Please Pass with an Effective Date

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

Bad for health.

Nicotine is a highly addictive drug, and can impact the developing brains of adolescents and young adults. A 2024 CDC Foundation report found that disposable e-cigarettes have nicotine levels similar to several cartons of cigarettes, with average nicotine strength increasing 294 percent between 2019 and 2023.⁶ 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.

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.⁹

We applaud the Legislature for helping to protect the health of our community and our environment by considering this measure, and thank this committee for your consideration of SB 2175 SD2 HD1.

We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

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

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

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

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, May 4). *Burden of cigarette use in the U.S.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html>

3 *The toll of tobacco in Hawaii.* Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (2025, December 15).
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/hawaii>

4 U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2024, August 29). *FDA issues final rule increasing the minimum age for certain restrictions on tobacco sales.* U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-final-rule-increasing-minimum-age-certain-restrictions-tobacco-sales>

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

HEARING: Tuesday April 7, 2:05 P.M.

PLACE: Room 329 Hawai'i State Capitol and via videoconference

SB2175, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices.

Chair Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, thank you for hearing this measure, which aims to prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State. **Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA) is in strong support of SB2175, SD2, HD1 .**

Hawai'i-American Nurses Association (Hawai'i- ANA) is the professional association for over 17,000 registered nurses who live and work in Hawai'i. Our mission is to advocate for the improvement of the healthcare system in the communities where we live and work.

Hawai'i-ANA has serious concerns about the health risks related to the use of disposable electronic cigarettes due to:

- significant environmental problems, notably potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic life of plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine waste.
- current higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, with implications for addiction.
- non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that can leach chemicals and create fire hazards.

Hawai'i-ANA thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i in supporting this measure to eliminate the harm caused by disposable electronic cigarette use.



Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

Chair of Advocacy Committee: Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

President: Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Executive Director: Elizabeth Kahakua, RN, BSN

phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Re: **SB2175 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
April 7, 2026, 2:05 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 SB2175 SD2 HD1**. This bill prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution 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 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 SB 2175 SD2 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 thought to be the vast majority of the time. Additionally, the batteries, plastics, and toxic chemicals contained in the vape liquid residue of a disposable vape device risk leaching toxic chemicals not only into the bodies of adolescents who are still developing, but also into the environment.

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

More than 200 pediatrician members of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics support measures that can help to fight the youth vaping epidemic and protect the environment from increased waste. We have seen first-hand the harmful impacts of nicotine addiction in our adolescent patients, and we have seen discarded vapes washed up on our beaches, polluting the environment. For both these reasons, we strongly urge your support of SB2175 SD2 HD1.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

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

**Committee
Members**

Annaleah Atkinson
808 652-7743

Regina Floyd
702 292-2372

Brian Foster
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Kristen Greene
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Tommy Noyes
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Jessica Pinson
937 901-5818

Doug Shannon
909 496-1188

Valerie Woods
808 822-2420

Ron Wiley
808 245-9527

Tom Worthen
435 994-0023



April 6, 2026

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

**RE: Strong Support (with amendments) for SB 2175 SD2 HD1
Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

Aloha Committee on Consumer Protection and 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.

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.

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 contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards.

Please advance this bill and help protect our keiki.

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

Testimony of Daniel Nitta, MPH (Community Health Sciences)
On behalf of Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) and the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i
Youth Council

In Support of S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1
Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

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

My name is Daniel Nitta, and I testify on behalf of HIPHI in strong support of S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

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

Today, a new generation is being exposed to nicotine addiction through e-cigarettes. In Hawai'i, 46% of high school students who vape report doing so daily, indicating high levels of addiction.¹ Nicotine harms brain development and affects attention, learning, and impulse control in youth.² Youth who use e-cigarettes are also more likely to transition to combustible cigarette use.¹

While some may view vaping as a safer alternative, research shows that individuals who both smoke and vape are four times more likely to develop lung cancer than those who only smoke.³

Disposable e-cigarettes also pose significant environmental risks. These products contain nicotine residues, lithium-ion batteries, and residual e-liquid—a complex mixture of chemicals that can leach into soil and water and persist in ecosystems.⁵ Exposure to e-cigarette waste has also been shown to harm plant life, reducing biomass by up to 30%, and can disrupt biological development in exposed organisms.^{6,7}

Improper disposal is widespread, with many disposable e-cigarettes being discarded in the trash, contributing to the growing volume of waste generated each year and increasing environmental damage. Furthermore, e-cigarettes contribute to the growing global e-waste burden and pollution across land, water, and air systems.⁸ Tobacco product waste, including e-cigarettes, is among the most commonly littered items worldwide and releases toxic chemicals and plastics into the environment.⁹

No one should be exposed to these kinds of preventable health and environmental impacts.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass S.B. 2175, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

Daniel Nitta

Daniel Nitta, MPH

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2175 SD2 HD1

TO: Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti and Committee Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: April 7, 2026 (2:05 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2175 SD2 HD1, which prohibits the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



April 6, 2026

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

Re: SUPPORT of SB2175 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC
SMOKING DEVICES

Hrg: April 7, 2026 at 2:05PM

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

The Hawaii Public Health Association supports SB 2175 SD2 HD1. Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of our people and our environment. These devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment. They also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users.

Please SUPPORT SB 2175 SD2 HD1 which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler".

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

Date: April 6, 2026

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

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 2:05pm CR 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2175. The University of Hawai'i Student Health Advisory Council has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of health policies and tobacco education on the UH System campuses. We remain deeply committed to the mission of reducing the use of all tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, especially amongst adolescents and young adults. As a result, we are in strong support of a ban on the sale of all disposable electronic smoking devices.

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

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

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

Mahalo from the Student Health Advisory Council

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:42:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Writing in support of this important bill to ban disposable smoking devices. They pose a double threat both to our fragile ecosystems and to the health of our people, especially our youth, who use e-cigs at alarming rates. Mahalo.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:51:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2175 SD2 HD1 which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Disposable e-cigarettes are a single-use plastic item that negatively impacts our environment. They leach heavy metals, toxic chemicals and plastics into our fragile environment and create wild fire hazards in our islands and fires in our solid waste facilities. There is no way to properly dispose of these items in our state and by ending their sale we protect our aquifer, reduce microplastics, and protect against fires. Please support SB2175 SD2 HD1 .

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 8:44:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Jay Ihara, and I strongly support SB2175 SD2 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.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:01:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 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

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:38:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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 SB2175, which is one necessary step to protect Hawaii's keiki from the public health plague of electronic smoking devices. As a teacher of teenagers, I have heard too many stories of parents' distress at the explicit marketing tactics used by tobacco companies to hook kids on these devices. Prohibiting these devices will ensure they stay out of the reach of many kids while simultaneously protecting our waste disposal infrastructure. I urge the Committee to advance this necessary bill.

With aloha,

Dave Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

SB 2175

Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

I am writing as a retired Kauai pediatrician and concerned citizen to strongly support SB 2175 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes, or “vapes.” Disposables are made by design to be indestructible and nonrefillable, despite incredibly strong lithium batteries, and have been marketed especially toward our youth, who are the predominant users. There are very few “safe” waste receptacles, no packaging instructions on how to dispose of them, and studies have shown that users are unaware of how they should be disposed of. The lithium batteries are a fire hazard and have started fires even in waste facilities at significant cost to communities.

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

To put this into perspective, in 2023 about 500,000 disposable e-cigs were discarded PER DAY in the US. It is impossible for beach cleanups to make a dent in this problem. The effects on our island ecosystems are potentially catastrophic. I urge you to eliminate this scourge from our very special island environment by passing SB2175.

Respectfully,

Linda Weiner, MD

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:10:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 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 SB2175, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of disposable electronic smoking devices in the State of Hawai‘i. This bill is a necessary and urgent step to protect our keiki from predatory addiction, our environment from toxic waste, and our communities from the harms of an industry that prioritizes profit over public health.

However, I must **strongly object** to one change made by the previous committee that is confusing, ambiguous, and fundamentally undermines the purpose of the bill. I urge this committee to delete this unnecessary language.

The Problem: Confusing, Ambiguous, and Unnecessary Language

The previous committee added language stating that the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of **between one to 20 disposable electronic smoking devices constitutes a single violation**.

What does this actually mean? The language is maddeningly unclear.

- If a retailer sells 21 devices, do they face 21 separate violations—one for each device? Or two violations—one for the first 20 and one for the 21st? Or do they need to reach 40 devices before receiving a second violation? The amendment offers no answers.
- If a retailer sells 20 devices in a single transaction to one customer, that is one violation. If they sell one device each to 20 different customers over the course of a day, is that one violation or 20? The amendment does not say.

This is not a technical nuance. This is a gaping hole in the law that invites confusion, litigation, and exploitation. A well-crafted law should be clear to everyone—law enforcement, prosecutors, retailers, and the public. This language is anything but clear.

Why This Language Is Unnecessary

The original bill did not need this language. It simply prohibited the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of disposable electronic smoking devices. Enforcement would have been

straightforward: each device sold illegally is a violation. Simple. Clear. Easy to understand. Easy to enforce.

The previous committee added complexity where none was needed. In doing so, they introduced ambiguity and, worse, created a perverse incentive structure.

Violators Should Not Get 19 Freebies

Regardless of how this ambiguous language is interpreted, one thing is clear: under this amendment, a violator gets at least 19 freebies. Sell one device illegally? One violation. Sell 19 devices illegally? Still one violation. That is not enforcement. That is a discount for bulk lawbreaking.

The point of this bill is to stop these devices from being sold—period. Not to allow 19 illegal sales before penalties kick in. Not to create a confusing threshold that lawyers will argue about for years. The point is to get these products off our shelves and out of the hands of our keiki.

If a retailer sells 100 illegal disposable vapes, they should face 100 violations. If they sell 1,000, they should face 1,000. Penalties should scale with the scale of the violation. That is how deterrence works. That is how justice works. Giving violators a bundle of freebies does neither.

The Youth Vaping Epidemic Is Real and Devastating

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

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

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

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

Disposable Vapes Are Designed for Addiction and Environmental Destruction

SB2175 targets a specific product category: disposable electronic smoking devices that are non-refillable, have a non-rechargeable battery, or are intended to be discarded after a single use. These products are not designed for harm reduction or smoking cessation—they are designed for addiction. Their low cost, colorful packaging, and sweet flavors like "peach ice" make them the entry point of choice for young people experimenting with vaping.

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

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

Conclusion

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

But the bill must be clear, not confusing. It must be enforceable, not ambiguous. It must hold violators accountable for each device they sell illegally, not give them 19 freebies.

I urge this committee to **delete the confusing, unnecessary, and counterproductive language bundling one to 20 devices into a single violation** and pass a clean, strong, enforceable ban.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

April 7, 2026

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

I am writing in support of SB 2175, SD2, HD1 “Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices.”

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

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

I urge you to support SB 2175, SD2, HD1 with an effective date of January 1, 2027.

Mahalo for your attention to this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman
Kailua, HI

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 1:06:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill - for the health of our community!

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 1:43:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

SB 2175 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Disposable E-Cigarettes

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

April 7, 2026

By: Inam Rahman, MD

Physician | Former Hawai'i Medical Association President

Waipahū, O'ahu

—

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of SB 2175 SD2 HD1, with targeted safeguards to strengthen its effectiveness and ensure balanced implementation.

This measure builds on prior efforts, including HB 2121, to address the growing public health and environmental risks associated with electronic smoking devices.

As a physician serving West O‘ahu for over 20 years, I have seen firsthand how nicotine addiction—especially among young people—can take hold early and lead to lifelong health consequences. Disposable e-cigarettes are particularly concerning because they are inexpensive, highly concentrated in nicotine, and designed in ways that appeal to youth.

This bill takes an important step toward protecting our keiki and safeguarding our environment.

WHY THIS BILL MATTERS

1. Protecting Youth Health

Disposable e-cigarettes have become a major entry point for nicotine addiction among adolescents. Their flavors, ease of use, and concealability make them especially dangerous. Preventing access at this stage is one of the most effective public health strategies we have.

2. Environmental Protection (‘Āina)

These products are single-use electronic waste containing lithium-ion batteries, plastics, and toxic metals. In Hawai‘i, where our ecosystems are fragile and interconnected, improper disposal creates long-term environmental harm.

3. Prevention is Better Than Treatment

In medicine, we emphasize prevention because it is more effective and far less costly than treating chronic disease. This bill reflects that principle.

RECOMMENDED SAFEGUARDS

While I support the intent of this measure, I respectfully recommend the following amendments to ensure it achieves its goals without unintended consequences:

1. Preserve Harm Reduction Pathways

Ensure that adults seeking to quit smoking retain access to regulated, non-disposable nicotine replacement or cessation tools. Without this, there is a risk some individuals may revert to combustible tobacco, which carries far greater health risks.

2. Strengthen Enforcement Focus

Prioritize enforcement at the importer, distributor, and online sales level, where most violations originate. This will reduce the burden on small local retailers and improve overall effectiveness.

3. Address the Risk of Illicit Markets

Include provisions for monitoring and reporting illegal sales activity, along with appropriate penalties, to prevent the emergence of an unregulated black market.

4. Support Small Business Transition

Provide a reasonable transition period and consider technical assistance or guidance for small businesses to adapt to compliant products. Many local businesses in our communities will be directly impacted.

5. Environmental Responsibility Measures

Require manufacturers and distributors of electronic nicotine devices to participate in or fund safe disposal or take-back programs, addressing the root environmental issue.

6. Require Data and Program Evaluation

Include a reporting requirement to evaluate:

- Youth vaping rates
- Environmental outcomes

- Enforcement challenges

A review within 2–3 years will allow the Legislature to refine the policy based on real-world results.

CONCLUSION

SB 2175 SD2 HD1 is a thoughtful and necessary step forward in protecting public health and our environment. With targeted safeguards, it can become even more effective, equitable, and sustainable.

As a physician, I strongly believe that no child should become addicted to nicotine because of a disposable product, and no community should bear the environmental burden of preventable waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Inam Rahman, MD

Waipahū, O‘ahu

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 1:46:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

As a mom, grandmother and tobacco treatment specialist for the last 23 years I am in strong support of SB2175 SD2 HD1.

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

Valerie Smalley

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:51:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to submit testimony in **support** of [SB 2175 SD2](#), which would prohibit the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i. Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of our people and our environment. These devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment. They also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users.

As a parent to youth who face increasing pressures to use these products and a healthcare provider who works to treat tobacco use disorder, I see first hand the risks these devices place on our families, natural environment, and healthcare system. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai‘i for us all.

Date: April 3, 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 SB2175 SD2 HD1**, Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

Hrg: Tue April 7, 2026 at 2:05 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 SB2175 SD2 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 SB2175 SD2 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

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 9:22:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2175 SB RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:50:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 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 SB2175 SD2 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.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:56:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 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 SB2175 SD2 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 SB2175 SD2 HD1 to end the sale of disposable vapes. Mahalo for caring about Hawai'i's keiki and kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa,
An Vo
Honolulu, HI

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:55:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:40:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of.

According to the Hawaii Public Health Institute,

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

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

These facts are unaligned with our state's goals.

Thank you.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:18:37 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	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.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:54:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I respectfully request your support of this measure to promote public health and to prevent toxic environmental waste from these products.

Mahalo nui.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 2:26:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Honorable Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and CPC Members,

I am writing in **strong support of SB2175 SD2 HD1**, Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices. As the mother of a teenager and a nurse with a graduate degree in environmental and occupational health, 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 heart, 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 1,000 e-cigarettes are thrown away every day in Hawai‘i. I still 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 local cultural center. These disposable electronic smoking devices put lithium ion batteries, nonbiodegradable plastics, toxic lead, and carcinogens into our waste streams and ‘Āina.

We have a responsibility to care for our people and our land, and with this bill we have an opportunity to make change for the better. Please support SB2175 SD2 HD1 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

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 4:53:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha committee,

I stand in strong support for SB2175. Here is why:

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.

Save our ecosystem and our Keiki, pass SB2175

Mary Santa Maria

Makawao

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:26:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

"Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is **Laverne Moore**, and I am a **retired educator** testifying in **strong support** of **SB2175 SD2 HD1**, which ends the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in our state.

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

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

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

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

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

Testimony in Strong Support of SB2175 SD2 HD1
Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices
CPC Committee
April 7, 2026

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

I write in strong support of SB2175 SD2 HD1, which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai‘i.

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

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

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

Hawai‘i has always taken pride in protecting its people and its environment. SB2175 aligns with those values. Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes is not about limiting choice—it is about choosing responsibility, protecting youth from addiction, safeguarding our natural resources, and reducing preventable harm.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB2175 SD2 HD1 and take a meaningful step toward a healthier future for Hawai‘i’s keiki and ‘āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support.

Dr. Colleen Fox, Makiki

My name is Amelia and I strongly support SB2175 for ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

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

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

Amelia
Honolulu

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Saber Holkup, and I am writing in strong support of SB2175, which would end the sale of disposable vapes in Hawai'i.

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

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

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

I urge you to pass SB2175 and help protect our 'āina and ocean from preventable pollution.

Mahalo for this opportunity!

Saber Holkup

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

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

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

E-cigarettes should not be accessible to students or adults. I believe that lawmakers have the power to help stop students from using these harmful devices that could cost them their life and waste student's time in schools. I hope that this bill will create a better environment for our youth, especially in our schools- which is a place of learning, not a place to vape. I urge you to support bill SB2175 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Mahalo for your time,
Taylor Wong

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:52:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Casandra Simonson, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

4/6/2025

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2175SD2 HD1 to prohibit the sale of disposable vape pens. As a pediaatrician I am extremely concerned about how accesible vape pens are to young people. This bill is a step in the right direction to protect our keiki. Thank you for your support!

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:54:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 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 SB2175 SD2 HD1 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 SB2175 SD2 HD1 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

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:57:38 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna-Kaelle Ramos	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 pollute our land and water. As a pediatric resident physician, I am particularly concerned that the colorful packaging and candy-like flavors are especially tempting to adolescents. As you know, youth vaping is an epidemic, with more than 13% of high schoolers and 10% of middle schoolers in Hawai'i in 2023 reporting using e-cigarettes. Disposable vapes also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users, including adolescents. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai'i for us all and a healthier future for our keiki.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:26:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 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 SB2175 SD2 HD1 to prohibit the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in our State. Similar to disposable plastic straws, our islands and our ocean are littered with unnecessary plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards. This creates an incredible adverse impact on our water quality and aquatic life.

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

Please protect our keiki and our ‘āina by supporting SB2175 SD2 HD1 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.

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:53:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Zehner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:58:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill. Disposable e-cigarettes are hazardous to the health of people and the environment. These devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that pollute our land and water. As a pediatrician, I am particularly concerned that the colorful packaging and candy-like flavors are especially tempting to adolescents. As you know, youth vaping is an epidemic, with more than 13% of high schoolers and 10% of middle schoolers in Hawai'i in 2023 reporting using e-cigarettes. Disposable vapes also contain higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes, leading to high addiction rates amongst users, including adolescents. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai'i for us all and a healthier future for our keiki.

Mahalo,

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

LATE

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:05:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Sb2175 SD2 HD1.

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 the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

LATE

SB-2175-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:42:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Denis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

I am writing **in support** of SB 2175, SD2, HD1. Banning the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in the State of Hawaii will reduce the uptake of vaping among Hawai'i youth and address a significant risk factor for nicotine addiction and cigarette-smoking. Less vaping means lower prevalence of chronic disease, reduced state healthcare spending, and the prevention of tobacco-related deaths in Hawai'i. Additionally, these devices contain dangerous plastics, toxic chemicals and lithium-ion batteries that leach into our environment. Please pass this bill to help create a safer Hawai'i for us all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2175, SD2, HD1.