



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2175, S.D. 1
RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 27, 2026
10:30 AM

Room Number: Conference Room 016
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 1
6 (S.B. 2175, S.D. 1) which would prohibit selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable
7 ESDs, and offers amendments.

8 **Department Testimony:** In 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restricted the
9 sale of pod-based ESDs, while exempting menthol and disposable ESD.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 an acute hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency, many ESDs
3 contain other toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde, lead, and acrolein.^{4,5} Some ESDs are
4 designed with built-in video games and Bluetooth speakers and come in candy or fruity flavors
5 to attract youth.⁶ According to the CDC Foundation’s Monitoring Tobacco Product Use project,
6 these high-tech, alluring ESD products deemed “disposable” due to their non-refillable nature,
7 account for 93% or 6,400 of the recorded 6,800 ESD products available for sale in the U.S.⁷

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

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

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

⁶ Commissioner, O. of the. (2025, September 30). *A Statement From FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, M.D., M.P.H.: Encouraging Retailers to Stop Selling Illegal Vapes*. FDA. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-marty-makary-md-mph-encouraging-retailers-stop-selling-illegal-vapes>

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

⁸ Diaz, M. C., Silver, N. A., Bertrand, A., & Schillo, B. A. (2025). Bigger, stronger, and cheaper: Growth in e-cigarette market driven by disposable devices with more e-liquid, higher nicotine concentration and declining prices. *Tobacco Control*, 34(1), 65–70. <https://doi.org/10.1136/tc-2023-058033>

⁹ Truth Initiative. (2025, April). *Another reason to quit vaping? The environmental impact of e-cigarettes*. <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/another-reason-quit-vaping-environmental-impact-e>

1 environment after being littered or discarded in landfills.¹⁰ In a 2024 study conducted by the
2 Truth Initiative, 53% of disposable ESD users aged 15-24 stated that they threw their ESDs in
3 the regular trash at a rate of about three per month.¹¹

4 The DOH appreciates the intent of S.B. 2175, S.D. 1 to stem the environmental harm
5 from disposable ESDs, but Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 339 on Litter Control addresses
6 products after use by consumers. Therefore, placement of the restriction on the sale of
7 disposable ESDs in Chapter 339 would not be enforceable by the Department. Chapter 328J,
8 Hawaii Revised Statutes is a better fit to restrict the sale of disposable ESDs. This approach
9 would complement Senate Bill 2410, S.D. 1 that would cover most disposable ESDs and be
10 enforced by the Department of the Attorney General.

11 **Offered Amendments:**

12 Revise Section 2. to be placed in Chapter 328J, Hawaii Revised Statutes instead of Chapter 339,
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 Move Section 2. (c) to (d) and add new Section 2. (c) Violations of subsection (a) are subject to a
15 fine of \$ _____ per day of each violation.

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](https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/another-reason-quit-vaping-environmental-impact-e)

¹¹ Truth Initiative. (2024, July). *Not-so-disposable e-cigarettes: Young people grapple with e-cigarette waste amid lack of safe disposal options.* [https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/not-so-
disposable-e-cigarettes-young-people-grapple-e](https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/not-so-disposable-e-cigarettes-young-people-grapple-e)



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Friday, February 27, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

By

Pallav Pokhrel, PhD

and

Naoto T. Ueno MD, PhD, Director
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

and

Vassilis Syrmos, PhD

Interim Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2175 SD1 – RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES

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

The University of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB 2175 SD1, which would prohibit the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i.

Disposable electronic nicotine delivery devices are now the most common device type used by youth e-cigarette users, as shown by national surveys as well as our research conducted among young adults in Hawai'i. Youth surveys show that over half of young current e-cigarette users choose disposables. Clearly, disposable e-cigarettes are especially popular among adolescents and young adults, compared with adults. Young people prefer disposables because they are convenient, flavored, inexpensive, and socially appealing.

Surveys consistently find that 65–80% of youth who vape—especially with disposables—have never smoked cigarettes and disposable users are more likely to be nicotine-naïve than users of refillable devices. On the other hand, there is no evidence suggesting that disposal e-cigarettes promote smoking cessation.

There is no justifiable reason for young people who are not cigarette smokers to be using e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes pose significant risks to respiratory health. Also, nicotine adversely effects developing brain. Thus, to protect the health of Hawai'i's youths and young adults, we **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB2175 SD1, which would prohibit the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawai'i.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2175 SD1

TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Committee Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: February 27, 2026 (10:30 AM)

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



Hawaii COPD Coalition

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Honolulu, HI 96824

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(808)699-9839

February 23, 2026

Honorable Chair Senator Rhoads

Honorable Vice-Chair Senator Gabbard

Members of the Senate Committees on Health & Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: **Strong Support for HB2175, SD1 Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

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

This measure is extremely critical to the health of the children of our state and our entire state as well. **Please pass SB2175,SD1**, Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices, which would prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

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

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

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

Please pass SB2175, SD1 and send it on to become law!

Very truly yours,

Valerie Chang

Valerie Chang

Executive Director



February 25, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB2175 SD1 RELATING TO RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC
SMOKING DEVICES

Hrg: February 27, 2026 at 10:30AM

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

The Hawaii Public Health Association supports SB 2175 SD1. 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 SD1 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:52:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Carvalho	Testifying for Hamakua Health Center, Inc. dba Hamakua-Kohala Health	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Shani "Kai" Carvalho and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2175 SD1 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:43:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are opposed to SB2175. It will put small vape shops out of business. It is also an affront to the liberties of your constituents that enjoy these products.



Disposable Vape Ban Could Undermine Hawaii's Smoking Progress

Key Points:

- **Legislative Overview:** House Bill 2121 and Senate Bill 2175 would prohibit the sale, offer for sale, and distribution of disposable e-cigarettes statewide in Hawaii.
- **Core Restriction:** HB 2121 defines disposable e-cigarettes as non-refillable, non-rechargeable, or single-use devices intended to be discarded after use – effectively banning the most popular vape products used by adults.
- **Environmental Framing:** The bills are presented as waste-management and marine debris measures, citing youth disposal concerns and environmental reports linking disposable vapes to landfill and ocean waste.
- **Key Distinction:** SB 2175 exempts products that have received marketing authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, creating a narrower scope than HB 2121.
- **Adult Smoking vs. Vaping:** In 2024, more Hawaiian adults vaped than smoked. An estimated 107,210 adults (9.3 percent) used e-cigarettes, compared to 93,377 adults (8.1 percent) who smoked combustible cigarettes.
- **Correlated Trends:** Between 2016 and 2024, adult vaping increased 116.3 percent, while smoking declined 38.2 percent – representing nearly 59,000 more adults vaping and more than 53,000 fewer adults smoking.
- **Economic Impact:** Hawaii's smoking decline carries substantial cost savings. With total annual costs per smoker estimated at \$95,058 – including \$4,385 in health-care costs – 53,000 fewer smokers translates to roughly \$5 billion in reduced total smoking-related costs.
- **Harm Reduction at Risk:** Disposable vape products are widely used by adults attempting to quit smoking. Eliminating them may unintentionally increase cigarette use or expand illicit market activity.
- **Existing Recycling Framework:** Hawaii already operates an Electronic Device Recycling and Recovery Law, expanded in 2022 and 2025, requiring manufacturers to fund recycling programs for electronic products.
- **Policy Alternative:** Rather than banning disposable vapes outright, lawmakers could incorporate vaping products – both disposable and rechargeable – into Hawaii's existing electronic waste recycling system.



- **Bottom Line:** HB 2121 and SB 2175 pursue environmental goals through prohibition, despite clear evidence that vaping has coincided with steep smoking declines in Hawaii. A targeted recycling strategy would address waste concerns without undermining harm reduction or risking unintended public health consequences.

Legislation in the Aloha State would severely limit tobacco harm reduction products sought by adults. Companion bills in the Hawaii House and Senate would ban the sale of disposable vape products. While framed as environmentally friendly legislation, restricting the most popular vape products – used by many Hawaiian adults to help quit smoking – could unintentionally increase combustible cigarette use and fuel black market sales. Rather than pursuing outright prohibition, lawmakers should study recycling programs similar to those used for other consumer goods that generate environmental waste.

[House Bill 2121](#) and [Senate Bill 2175](#) would implement a statewide prohibition on the sale, offer for sale, and distribution of disposable e-cigarettes.

Under HB 2121, a disposable e-cigarette is defined as a device that is non-refillable, has a non-rechargeable battery, or is intended to be discarded after its contents are used. The measure is framed as environmental and waste-management legislation and cites Truth Initiative findings on youth disposal habits, as well as research from the Michael Bloomberg-funded Bureau of Investigative Journalism regarding the volume of disposable vapes discarded nationwide. The bill further connects disposable e-cigarettes to marine debris and broader environmental degradation, suggesting they contribute to Hawaii’s waste challenges.

SB 2175 is largely similar but differs in statutory placement, product definition, and federal exemptions. Notably, SB 2175 excludes products that have received marketing authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration from the definition of disposable electronic smoking devices, effectively exempting those products from the proposed ban.

The introduction of e-cigarettes in Hawaii has coincided with steep declines in combustible cigarette use – the most harmful form of tobacco. In fact, in 2024 a greater percentage of Hawaiian adults aged 18 or older were vaping than smoking.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, an estimated 107,210 Hawaiian adults were currently using e-cigarettes in 2024 – or 9.3 percent of adults – compared to 93,377 adults (8.1 percent) who were currently smoking combustible cigarettes. That represents 13.8 percent more adults vaping than smoking.

E-cigarette use has increased alongside significant declines in smoking. Between 2016 and 2024, adult vaping prevalence rose 116.3 percent, from 4.3 percent to 9.3 percent – representing nearly



59,000 additional adults. During the same period, smoking prevalence declined 38.2 percent, from 13.1 percent to 8.1 percent – equating to more than 53,000 fewer adults smoking.

These reductions carry meaningful economic implications. According to [WalletHub](#), the total annual cost per smoker in Hawaii in 2024 was \$95,058, including \$4,385 in health care costs. With more than 53,000 fewer adults smoking, that translates to an estimated \$5 billion reduction in total smoking-related costs, including approximately \$234 million in health care savings.

Rather than implementing a statewide prohibition, Hawaii lawmakers can look to existing consumer waste programs. In 2008, the Legislature enacted the [Electronic Device Recycling and Recovery Law](#), requiring manufacturers of certain electronics to operate recycling programs. The law was expanded in 2022 to require manufacturers to fully fund those programs and was further broadened in 2025 to include additional device categories.

Instead of restricting harm reduction options for adults – and risking unintended consequences – lawmakers should build on these successful recycling frameworks by incorporating vaping products, including both disposable and non-disposable devices, into Hawaii’s existing electronic waste programs. A targeted recycling solution would address environmental concerns without eliminating lower-risk alternatives that are helping thousands of Hawaiian adults move away from combustible cigarettes.

Nothing in this analysis is intended to influence the passage of legislation, and it does not necessarily represent the views of Tobacco Harm Reduction 101.

Date: February 25, 2026

To: Chair Senator Karl Rhoads of Committee on Judiciary
Vice Chair Senator Mike Gabbard of Committee on Judiciary

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: Friday, February 27, 2026 10:30am CR 016

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



To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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

Hearing: Friday, February 25, 2026, 10:30am, Conference Room 016

RE: **SB2175 SD1 Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB2175 SD1**. This measure would prohibit the selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable electronic smoking devices beginning 1/1/2027.

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

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

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **SB2175 SD1**.



HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

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Vice Chair
Hawai'i Health Partners

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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: February 26, 2026

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Strong Support for SB 2175 SD1, Relating to Disposable Electronic
Smoking Devices

Hrg: Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10:30 AM, Room 016

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **strong support of, and proposes amendments to SB 2175 SD1**, which would end the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

We respectfully request that SB 2175 SD1 be amended to mirror the language in HB 2121 HD1, Relating to Waste Management.

The proposed amendments would:

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

As drafted, SB 2175 SD1 currently requires all three criteria to be met in order to be considered a disposable e-cigarette, limiting the bill's impact .

Tobacco-related disease continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, resulting in 480,000 deaths annually,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 2023.⁶ 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 SD1.

We respectfully ask you to pass this measure with amendments.

Mahalo,

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

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

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.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Re: **SB2175 SD1 – Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 27, 2026; 10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of SB2175 SD1**. This bill prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of certain disposable electronic smoking devices.

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/>



Chair - Senator Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair - Senator Mike Gabbard
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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

February 27, 2026

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I am writing in support of SB 2175, SD2 “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, SD1 to help reign in the illegal sale and use of those products and to support the Hawaii Attorney General’s office in enforcing against their illegal sale to minors.

Mahalo for your attention to this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman
Kailua, HI

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:56:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:55:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice-Chair Gabbard,

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:07:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2175, SD 1 passage this legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2175, SD 1.

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:19:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:10:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This overregulation will be a business killer for vape shops.

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:14:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Jay Ihara, and I'm in strong support SB2175 SD1. This bill aims to create a directory that will ban all tobacco products not included on an authorized list of 39 products approved by the FDA. If passed, it will eliminate thousands of different e-cigarette products currently available for purchase. Most products targeting youth will be made illegal, helping to protect our keiki from Big Tobacco. California has implemented a similar approach to ensure that only approved products are sold in the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Testimony in Strong Support of SB2175 SD1
Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices
JDC Committee
Friday, February 27, 2026**

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

I write in **strong support of SB2175 SD1**, 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 SD1** and take a meaningful step toward a healthier future for Hawai'i's keiki and 'āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support.

Dr. Colleen Fox, Makiki

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:26:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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 SD1 which would end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

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

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

Our youth's health and the health of our earth is very important to me. Please support SB2175 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:05:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 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.

Date: February 24, 2026

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **Support for SB2175 SD1**, Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

Hrg: Friday February 27, 2026 at 10:30 am Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee on Judiciary,

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong support of SB2175 SD1**, which prohibits selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable electronic smoking devices.

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

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

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

I **strongly support SB2175 SD1**, respectfully ask you to pass it out of committee to help create a safer Hawai'i for all of us.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:49:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support

Disposable e-cigarettes are creating significant public health and environmental concerns that require immediate attention. In 2023 alone, Americans discarded an estimated **5.7 disposable e-cigarettes every second** — nearly **500,000 devices per day**, totaling approximately **150 million devices annually**. The volume of this waste represents a growing environmental challenge.

Researchers have raised concerns about the debris generated by disposable e-cigarettes and its potential impact on water quality and aquatic ecosystems. These products contain plastics, metals, batteries, and nicotine, all of which can enter the environment and pose risks to wildlife and natural resources.

In addition to environmental impacts, disposable e-cigarettes often contain higher nicotine concentrations than earlier generations of e-cigarette products. This increases the potential for nicotine dependence, particularly among youth and young adults.

Disposable e-cigarettes are also made with non-biodegradable plastic components and lithium-ion batteries, which can leach harmful chemicals into the environment and create fire hazards when improperly discarded.

Given these combined health and environmental risks, it is important to take proactive steps to reduce the harms associated with disposable e-cigarettes and protect both public health and Hawai‘i’s fragile environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:09:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP

Pediatrician

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:18:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Less nicotine addiction, less lung damage, and lower environmental impacts. Time for the state to implement.

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:29:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and pass this bill. This bill is life-saving for youth and our environment.

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:16:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am a high school student writing in strong support of SB2175. Disposable e-cigarettes are extremely popular among teens and pose serious risks to both physical and mental health. I have seen firsthand how these products negatively affect students.

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

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your strongest support of SB2175.

Mahalo,

Luke Itomura

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:10:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

RE: SB2175 SD1

Aloha,

Please end the sale of Disposable e-cigarettes. They 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. I know this is being talked and debated about already. However, I see e-cigarettes as a very serious public health threat, and intergenerationally so. I can't stop commenting about this for the sake of strategic advocacy and good public policy..

Mahalo,

John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW

512 Kuula St, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

SB 2175

Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

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

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

To put this into perspective, in 2023 about 500,000 disposable e-cigs were discarded PER DAY in the US. It is impossible for beach cleanups to make a dent in this problem. The effects on our island ecosystems are potentially catastrophic. I urge you to eliminate this scourge from our very special island environment by passing SB 2175

Respectfully,

Linda Weiner, MD

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:49:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear committee

I strongly support SB2175 SD1,

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.

If you care about the health of our bodies and the environment you will pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Mary Santa Maria, Makawao

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:05:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure, for the health and safety of our environment and our keiki.

Mahalo,

Katie Folio

Kula, Maui

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:50:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of SB2175. These cigarettes are hazardous to health and the environment. I should know. As someone with lung issues, breathing gets hard if someone smoking passes me. Health should be a right to have. Smoking should not. In addition, the disposal of lithium iron batteries is a danger to the environment as well as a major fire hazard.

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

Lynne Matusow

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:21:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

I am in strong support of SB2175:

- 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 looking at the impact that disposable e-cigarettes are having on our environment , especially our concerns on climate change.

Valerie Smalley

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:05:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Chan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The vaping community doesn't want this kind of ban. You guys are pissing people off with these product ban attempts.

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:56:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is An and I'm a college public health student on O'ahu. I'm testifying in strong support of SB2175 SD1 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 SD1 to end the sale of disposable vapes. Mahalo for caring about Hawai'i's keiki and kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa,
An
Honolulu, HI

Chair - Senator Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair - Senator Mike Gabbard
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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.

SB2175 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

Maya Butts
February 26, 2026
TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT
OF SB2175

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Maya Butts, and I am a freshman in high school. I am testifying to express my strong support for SB2175. This is a bill that is crucial in reducing the environmental damage these electronic cigarettes pose. On top of that, disposable vapes have become one of the most popular and accessible nicotine products used by our keiki in Hawaii.

Disposable e-cigarettes contain plastic, heavy metals, and lithium ion batteries which make them very difficult to recycle properly. As a result, batteries can catch fire when thrown away in landfills. Over a third of fires in H-POWER, Honolulu's energy facility were lithium-related. H-POWER went out of service for days due to lithium-ion batteries in 2025 alone.

These nicotine products have also become widely available to our children in Hawaii. The combination of targeted marketing, sweet flavors, and accessibility has led to the widespread use in teens. Also, vapes can have a gateway effect to start experimenting with harder drugs. According to a study by the University of Michigan, teens who vape will be 4 times more likely to start smoking the following year. E-cigarettes can become the first-step before transitioning to traditional tobacco, cannabis, or illegal drugs.

Passing SB2175 will strongly help protect our 'āina and our keiki.

Thank you,
Maya Butts

LATE

SB-2175-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:00:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.