



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2175
RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES**

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

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

Hearing Date: February 6, 2026, 9:00 AM

Room Number: Conference Room 229
and Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of a ban on disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs)
2 in Hawaii would result in modest reductions in Hawaii's tax revenues while at the same time
3 leading to reductions in chronic diseases and health care spending, including Medicaid
4 spending, in the state.
- 5 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) provides comments on Senate Bill 2175
6 (S.B. 2175) which would prohibit selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable
7 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

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>

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

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 2022.⁸

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

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

³ 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>

1 in the regular trash.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

6 The DOH appreciates the intent of S.B. 2175 to stem the environmental harm from
7 disposable ESDs, but Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 339 on Litter Control addresses products
8 after use by consumers. Therefore, placement of the restriction on the sale of disposable ESDs
9 in Chapter 339 would not be enforceable by the Department. The alternative measure
10 recommended is S.B. 2410 that would cover most disposable ESDs and be enforced by the
11 Department of the Attorney General.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

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>

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. (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>



Hawaii COPD Coalition

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February 3, 2026

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

RE: **Strong Support for SB2175 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**, 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 and send it on to become law!

Very truly yours,

Valerie Chang

Valerie Chang

Executive Director



To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2026, 9:00am, Conference Room 229

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

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB2175**. 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 the 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**.



HIPHI Board

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Chair

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Department of Pediatrics*

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Health*

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 4, 2026

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

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

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

Hrg: Friday, February 6, 2026, at 9:00 AM, Room 229

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**, which would end the sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

We respectfully request that SB 2175 be amended to mirror the language in HB 2121, 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 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.⁵



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 HB 2121.

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.



Chair - Senator San Buenaventura & Senator Keohokalole

Vice Chair - Senator McKelvey & Senator Fukunaga

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

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

Date: February 4, 2026

To: Chair Senator Jarret Keohokalole and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Chair Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

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 6, 2026 9:30am CR 229

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

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

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

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

Mahalo from the Student Health Advisory Council

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2175

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

DATE: February 6, 2026 (9:00 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.

February 6, 2026

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

I am writing in support of SB 2175, "Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices," but suggesting language changes. I feel that proposed bill HB 2121 offers cleaner language to achieve the same goal and recommend that SB 2175 be revised by substituting the HB 2121 language.

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 with my suggested amendment 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:08:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

Mahalo,
An
Honolulu

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:00:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mahalo nui to for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure. Let's protect our keiki, reduce our plastic waste stream, and mitigate the costs of lithium ion battery fires in our landfills and neighborhoods - please PASS SB2175!

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:12:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

Date: February 3, 2026

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

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

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

Hrg: Friday February 6, 2026 at 9:00 am Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

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

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong support of SB2175**, 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**, 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:48:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

In strong support of. This compliments other single-use plastic reduction efforts. Thank you.

SB2175

Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes

I am writing as a retired Kauai pediatrician and concerned citizen to strongly support SB2175 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes, or “vapes.” Disposable 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:06:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Writing in strong support. This is an important bill that will protect our aina from pollution. Mahalo.

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:58:30 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Galloway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has enough trash, and there are other options for smokers. Please pass this bill!

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:19:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Jay Ihara, and I strongly support **SB2175**. In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable e-cigarettes every second, adding up to nearly 500,000 per day, resulting in 150 million per year. The waste generated by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns among researchers, who are noting potential impacts on water quality and aquatic life due to the presence of plastics, metals, batteries, and nicotine. Disposable e-cigarettes contain non-biodegradable plastics and lithium-ion batteries, which can leach harmful chemicals and pose fire hazards. Ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes will help prevent hazardous substances from contaminating the environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:05:30 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:47:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Vice Chairs of the HHS/CCP,

As a parent, recent grandparent and Tobacco Treatment Specialist I am in full support of SB2175. These products are not designed for health or preserving our environment but for profit

In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable e-cigarettes every second, adding up to nearly 500,000 per day, resulting in 150 million per year.

- The debris created by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns for researchers, noting potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic life due to plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine.
- Disposable e-cigarettes have higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes.
- Disposable e-cigarettes contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards.

As residents of one of the most beautiful places in the world we should be better and do better. Please pass this bill so we can start to reverse the harm that these disposable products are already doing

Mahalo Valerie Smalley

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:18:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill.

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

Mahalo.

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:19:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Less nicotine addiction, less severe lung damage, and less environmental issues for the state.

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:57:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 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 another 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.

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and
Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing Date/Time: Friday February 6, 2026, 9:00am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 229 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports SB2175 Relating to Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices

Dear Chair Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support SB2175 which would prohibit the sale of disposable e-cigarettes in Hawaii.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:33:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melveen Janeen Camba, MS, RN	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

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:27:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for taking the time to discuss this measure. For the sake of our environment and the health of the people of Hawai'i, I ask that you please pass this bill through your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

Katie Folio

Kula, Maui

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

Aloha, my name is Louis, and I am a student and youth advocate with the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i Youth Council.

A few years ago, I lost my uncle to lung cancer caused by tobacco. My grandfather too. I grew up hearing their coughs, their struggles to breathe, and I remember how powerless my family felt watching them fade away. We thought those days were behind us. But now, a new form of nicotine addiction is taking over my generation.

At school, I see students puffing from disposable vapes hidden in their sleeves. These aren't just "flavored devices." They're bright, colorful, candy-scented traps curated to hook teens. I've seen friends who once promised to stay clean now unable to go a day without dying for a hit. They tell me they can stop whenever they want. But in reality, their words were far from the truth.

These products are designed to addict. Cheap, easy to hide, and disposable so that no one notices. They litter our beaches and parks and fill our lungs with the same puffs of lies the tobacco industry told decades ago.

Hawai'i has a chance to lead again. We can protect our youth and our land by ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes once and for all.

Please, don't let another generation be defined by addiction. Let's make sure our future is smoke-free, vape-free, and full of life.

Mahalo for your time and for standing up for Hawai'i's youth.

Louis

Honolulu

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:46:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 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.

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

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:17:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB2175. I am a long-time educator and very concerned about the health of our environment and Hawaii residents of all ages.

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

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:32:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2175, ending the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. The health of our environment is vitally important! Disposable e-cigarettes lead to around 150 million e-cigarettes EACH YEAR. Disposable e-cigarettes lead to many concerns, including continued effects from the plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine, on our earth and in our water systems.

Please support SB2175 and end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes.

Thank you, Kristin Mills

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:48:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support 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.

Sincerely

M. Santa Maria

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:50:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Carvalho	Testifying for Hamakua-Kohala Health	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Shani "Kai" Carvalho and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2175 to end the sale of disposable e-cigarettes. Not only are the 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 aina. 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

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:43:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my full support for 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

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:05:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 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

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:34:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

As a RN and a public health advocate, I am asking for your support of this bill.

In 2023, Americans discarded 5.7 disposable e-cigarettes every second, adding up to nearly 500,000 per day, resulting in 150 million per year.

The debris created by disposable e-cigarettes is raising concerns for researchers, noting potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic life due to plastic, metals, batteries, and nicotine. Disposable e-cigarettes have higher nicotine concentrations than previous generations of e-cigarettes and contain non-biodegradable plastic and lithium-ion batteries that leach chemicals and create fire hazards. This issue is similar to plastic straws; made even worse with the chemicals leaching into our ocean. It is so disheartening to see these plastics littering our streets and parking lots everyday.

Working at the intersection of environmental health and public health, I have experienced the impacts of these e-cigarettes on the human body as well as our ‘āina and our precious wai. Please support this bill and do the right thing for our people and our planet. Environmental Health is Public Health.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:12:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is completely unfair for targeting only our vape products.

SB-2175

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:34:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcella Chavez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s) and Members of the Committees,

My name is Marcella Chavez, and I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2175, which would prohibit the sale of disposable electronic smoking devices in Hawai‘i.

Disposable e-cigarettes create a dual crisis for Hawai‘i: they increase nicotine addiction risk, especially among youth, and they generate hazardous waste that harms our environment. These single-use products are designed to be discarded, yet they contain lithium-ion batteries, plastics, and chemical residues. When thrown away, they add to the e-waste burden and can contribute to pollution and toxic leaching in landfills and the broader ecosystem.

From a public health perspective, disposable vapes are easy to access, easy to conceal, and often marketed in ways that appeal to young people. The high nicotine content in many devices increases the likelihood of dependence and makes it harder for users to quit. Hawai‘i should not normalize a throwaway nicotine product that fuels addiction while leaving communities to manage the waste and risk.

SB 2175 is a clear and practical step to protect our keiki, reduce hazardous waste, and support a healthier Hawai‘i. I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB 2175**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Marcella Chavez

Chair - Senator San Buenaventura & Senator Keohokalole

Vice Chair - Senator McKelvey & Senator Fukunaga

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

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 5, 2026

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT
OF SB2175

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Mckelvey, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services & Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am Maya Butts, and I am a freshman in high school. I am testifying to express my strong support for SB2175. I was in 7th grade when I first noticed a vaping problem at my school. There was a group of six or seven girls huddled in the accessibility bathroom stall, and I noticed a lingering scent of artificial blue raspberries. At that moment, I realized how easy it was to fall into the trap of flavored tobacco products. This is further highlighted by the Hawaii Youth Risk and Behavior Survey, which concluded that among middle schoolers, nearly one in 10 students currently use e-cigarettes in Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i Counties, and about one in 20 students in Honolulu County. ([DOH](#)) Vaping can start as an innocent interest, but can quickly lead to a life of addiction. Not only that, the ease of use and the wide range of flavors have contributed to the appeal of these disposable vape products, particularly among youth.

Vape pens are typically composed of plastic pods and cartridges, heavy metals, and lithium ion batteries. These are not recyclable, and as a result smokers often dispose of them in regular garbage. In Hawai'i, vape waste becomes a permanent pollutant of our 'āina. Because these devices do not biodegrade, they create a persistent cycle of chemical and plastic pollution

in both landfills and natural habitats. Nationally, Americans discard over 850 million vapes each year, contributing to a massive spike in hazardous e-waste. ([Truth Initiative](#)) I have seen this crisis firsthand during a trash walk with my school, where we found stacks of flavored vape packaging and plastic cartridges littering our streets. While these items were everywhere on land, they were missing when I would go to beach clean ups. It wasn't because they weren't there, but because these devices would sink to the seafloor where they hurt our reefs. Passing SB2175 is the only way to stop this toxic waste from hurting our precious land, as well as protecting our youth for the next, tobacco-free generation.

Thank you,

Maya Butts