



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Submitted for the
Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawai'i State Senate
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by
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SCR 60 - URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ADOPT POLICIES THAT REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY THE SALE AND DISPLAY OF TOBACCO.

"The children couldn't avert their eyes. The image of two sets of pig's lungs—one pink and healthy, the other black from tobacco—was just too compelling."

Dear Chairs Green, Baker and members of the Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection. The sentences above are from a news item about one of the many informational appearances (with visual props), which are made throughout by year at schools and community fairs throughout O'ahu by students of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

The hands-on, visual element of this presentation is secondary, though, to the one-on-one attention our students give our keiki during these visits. Our students are closer in age to the pupils they reach out to, they are knowledgeable and they have an uncanny way of really communicating with the children.

The "Tar Wars" team of students is just one of many of our tobacco cessation promotion programs at the medical school. Indeed, tobacco cessation and tobacco dependence treatment for the people of Hawai'i are prominent throughout the medical school's curriculum; **every single medical student gets this training**. Our faculty, residents, medical students and related health care professionals provide one-on-one care every day throughout the offices, clinics and hospitals in which they serve Hawai'i. These healthcare providers routinely offer smokers help to quit smoking through interventional counseling.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine's faculty, students and staff work diligently *on the front lines* of community centers trying to mitigate smoking's deadly impact. **Half of all physicians practicing in Hawai'i and treating Hawai'i's people right now are either JABSOM faculty members or graduates of JABSOM or its post-graduate residency training programs.**

Therefore, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and its John A. Burns School of Medicine are pleased to testify in favor of this resolution urging the state of Hawai'i to adopt policies to reduce the harm caused by the sale and display of tobacco. It is something we believe in, and something our graduates and faculty already enthusiastically seek to accomplish, day in and day out, in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.