



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
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By

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and

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SB 1032 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center supports this bill.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 68 institutions in the United States that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities, and it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without traveling to the mainland.

Our passion at the UH Cancer Center is to be a world leader in eliminating cancer through research, education and improved patient care. Because tobacco consumption is a leading preventable cause of cancer, we take all issues related to tobacco very seriously. Whereas the UH Cancer Center always has supported strong tobacco control measures in Hawai'i, the recent emergence of electronic smoking devices presents new challenges for tobacco control and tobacco-related legislation.

The UH Cancer Center perspective on electronic smoking devices is informed by the scientific literature, including original published research by our own faculty. For example, UH Cancer Center researcher Thomas Wills, PhD, uncovered a growing public health problem among Hawaii's youth by showing Hawai'i teens used e-cigarettes at nearly triple the rate of mainland teens. His study in the journal *Pediatrics* further showed that e-cigarettes use was growing nationally among teens.

In light of the emerging prevalence of other forms of tobacco products and the use of electronic smoking devices, this is an appropriate time to increase the license fees. All forms of tobacco products and electronic devices that deliver nicotine should be taxed at the same or comparable rates.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.