



January 26, 2015

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

From: Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: **SUPPORT** – SB2083 Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

Hearing: January 28, 2016 at 2:45pm at Capitol Room 229

The Hawaii Public Health Association is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA **supports** the passage of SB2083 which would prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle when a minor is present.

We need to protect our children from secondhand smoke. The passage of SB2083 is one important step to protecting our children from toxic smoke. Secondhand smoke in a vehicle can be up to ten times more toxic than what the EPA considers hazardous air quality, even when a window is down.

Children are not able to make informed decisions about their health, especially to ask an adult to not smoke in a vehicle. We must take action to protect a child from this harm, as exposure to the poisons in secondhand smoke puts them at risk of severe respiratory diseases and can hinder the growth of their lungs.

Hawai'i continues to be a leader in this area by protecting residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke, and now, the State Legislature has the opportunity to protect its children and young people from the harmful impacts of smoking in a vehicle. Across the nation, seven states have passed laws to prohibit smoking when children and young people are present. This year, 12 additional states are considering similar legislation. I hope that Hawai'i can continue being an example for other states in the nation in promoting clean, smoke-free, and healthy environments for our residents and families by passing SB 2083.

HPHA supports this policy to protect the health of young people in Hawaii as well as future generations. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director