



February 29, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

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

Hearing: March 1, 2016 at 10:30am at Capitol Room 211

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA serves as a voice for public health 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.

Children need to be protected from secondhand smoke; the passage of SB2083 is an important step to achieving this goal. 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 when it comes to asking an adult to not smoke in a vehicle. It is critical to protect children 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 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. Hawai'i can continue being an example for other states in the nation in promoting clean, smoke-free, and healthy environments for residents and families by passing **SB 2083**. HPHA supports this policy to protect the health of children 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,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair