



February 2, 2018

To: Maui County Council

Re: **Strong Support for Maui County PEA-41**

Hrg: February 2, 2018

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

HPHA strongly supports PEA-41 which would prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle when a minor is present in Maui County.

Children need to be protected from secondhand smoke; the passage of PEA-41 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 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.

Inhaling secondhand smoke is especially harmful because our children's lungs, as they are still developing, at least through their 18th birthday. Passing smoke-free cars into law will help decrease our children's exposure to secondhand smoke and educate adults about the dangers of smoking in a car, especially when a minor is present.

We respectfully ask that you pass PEA-41 in order for Maui County to join the rest of the State of Hawaii (joining the Big Island, Kaua'i, and O'ahu) to eliminate smoking in cars when a minor is present.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawaii'i Public Health Association