



February 1, 2017

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara

From: Hawai'i Public Health Association

Subject: **SUPPORT SB261** Relating to the Statewide Traffic Code

HPHA 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 health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA **supports** the passage of **SB261** which would prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle when a minor is present.

Children need to be protected from secondhand smoke; the passage of **SB261** is an important step to achieving this goal. Scientific studies have shown that secondhand smoke can be several 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 for respiratory diseases, ear infections, SIDS, and more severe asthma.

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, several states have passed laws to prohibit smoking when children and young people are present. 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 **SB261**. 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,

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

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawai'i Public Health Association