



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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House Committee on Health

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2153

Relating to Taxation

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer

January 29, 2010 9:30 a.m. Agenda, Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports this measure, which would impose a tax on soft drinks. As noted in the bill's preamble, consumption of such drinks has contributed to poor oral health, obesity, and related diseases. Creating a new tax on soft drinks may result in decreased soft drink consumption and will certainly result in increased revenues, which are both good.

While the economic situation we find ourselves in now may dictate the need to assign soft drink tax revenues to the general fund, we recommend that the bill be altered to re-direct some or all of the proceeds to health-related interests including but not limited to the community health center special fund, health and nutrition promotion programs, and oral health improvement needs by 2013.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.