

## VOTE NO! ON HOUSE BILL 895

Dear Hawaii State Legislator,

I/we strongly oppose House Bill 895 which would increase the graduated wholesale tobacco tax on cigars to 60% in 2009 and ultimately, 90% by 2011. This tax increase results in a small minority of adult consumers bearing an unfairly high tax on a perfectly legal consumer good. This effectively denies adult citizens their civil right to enjoy a cigar at a reasonable price.

Imagine if your \$5.00 plate lunch was suddenly subject to the new Federal SCHIP tax and this proposed tax increase. That means the price of your plate lunch would increase to \$7.75! This is quite inappropriate given that we are experiencing the most trying economic times since the Great Depression!

Cigar smokers are generally mature, well-educated, and professional, with homes, families, and businesses and don't appreciate the fact that anti-smoking groups have used the taxation forum to grind their axes on our backs.

I would encourage you to either oppose or amend HB 895 to exclude cigars from a tax increase or consider placing a "per cigar" tax cap on any cigars sold in Hawaii. As of April 1, 2009, there were 41 other states which taxed cigars at a rate lower than Hawaii. Please kokua your own friends and neighbors by fixing HB895 so we can all live with it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Business) Name, Address, & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply. I am a:

\_\_\_\_ Resident of Hawaii

\_\_\_\_ Visitor to Hawaii

\_\_\_\_ Cigar retailer

\_\_\_\_ Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return your petition to Cigar-Cigar. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii State Legislature.

CIGAR-CIGAR!

1125 S. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96814  
(808) 591-0808 (808) 377-3727--fax