



We Must Continue Funding Tobacco Prevention and Quit Smoking Programs in Hawai'i

Smoking still kills too many of our friends and family.

Smoking is still a dangerous health risk that kills more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs and suicides COMBINED. 1400 children in Hawai'i start smoking every year. 1100 smokers in Hawai'i will die each year from their own smoking. And smoking costs the state hundreds of millions of dollars in health care costs and lost productivity.

Tobacco prevention programs keep kids from smoking.

In-school and after-school education programs, and public messages have reduced high-school youth smoking in Hawai'i from 25% to less than 10% in just 7 years. Because of tobacco prevention efforts, thousands of children are safe from illness and early death from smoking-related cancers and diseases.

Quit-smoking programs work and help smokers quit.

Hawaii's adult smoking rate has dropped from 22.2% to 15.4% and helped thousands live longer, healthier lives. Hawaii's Tobacco Quitline, group counseling in local communities, and services that offer gums, patches and nicotine replacement all help smokers kick the habit.

Funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs saves lives AND saves money in health care and business costs.

Smoking related illnesses cost hundreds of million of dollars in health care costs. Businesses and the economy save millions more from lost productivity and other business costs of having chronically ill employees. Funding Tobacco Prevention is a smart investment for Hawaii's pocketbook and its future.

Hawai'i can't afford more cuts to tobacco prevention.

Tobacco Prevention is the only line of defense to protect children from the \$42 million tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly product in Hawai'i every year. Other states that cut tobacco prevention saw smoking rates for children increase ... condemning thousands more of our children to lifelong illness and possibly early death.

Last year the state legislature cut funding by half. We can't let them cut more. We must preserve tobacco prevention to protect our children.

Tobacco Prevention works and saves lives and money. We must continue Funding Tobacco Prevention and Quit Smoking Programs in Hawai'i

Need more information or want to help? Go to www.tobaccofreehawaii.org or call us at 946-6851.