

PEA Committee

From: jme_l@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jaime Hovey
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Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 7:35 PM
To: PEA Committee
Subject: Testimony for PEA-41

Dear Maui County Council Policy, Economic Development, and Agriculture Committee,

I strongly support prohibiting smoking and vaping in a motor vehicle when a minor is present in Maui County (PEA-41). We need to protect our children from secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke in a car can be up to ten times more toxic than what the EPA considers unhealthy air quality, even when a window is down.

Maui County has passed comprehensive smoke-free air laws, which protect visitors and residents from secondhand smoke at beaches, parks, and bus stops. However, our children continue to breathe in secondhand smoke in their own homes and cars daily. Inhaling secondhand smoke is especially harmful because children's lungs are still developing. Every time they inhale secondhand smoke, they breathe in 7,000 chemicals, 200 of which are poisonous, and 50 are known to cause cancer.

Regular exposure to secondhand smoke can make children miss school, and even require trips to the hospital. Inhaling toxic smoke compromises their ability to perform well in school and engage in physical activity.

Smoke-free car laws just like child safety seats, seat belts, and no cellphone use while driving, help to protect the health and safety of our children, and these laws are enforced in similar ways. Passing smoke-free cars into law will help decrease our children's exposure to secondhand smoke and educate parents and other adults about the dangers of smoking in a car when a minor is present.

I respectfully ask that you pass PEA-41 to help Maui County join the Big Island and Kaua'i to eliminate smoking in cars when a minor is present.

Sincerely,
Jaime Hovey
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