PEA Committee

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).

Hearing Date: September 18, 2017
Maui County Council Meeting
RE: Strong Support for PEA-41

Aloha Maui Councilmembers,

I strongly support Bill 70, which would prohibit smoking and vaping in a motor vehicle when a minor is present on Oahu.

As the coordinator for the Coalition for Tobacco-Free East Hawai'i we are very encouraged to see the Maui City Council introduce PEA-41 to eliminate smoking in vehicles when a minor is present. This August we celebrate our 7th anniversary of smoke-free vehicles in Hawai'i County and public support is overwhelming. According to 2016 polling data, 83% of our residents support this law which was passed to protect children's developing lungs from harmful secondhand smoke, which contains approximately 7,000 chemicals, of which 200 are poisonous and nearly 70 are a class A-carcinogen.

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 Bill 70 to help make Honolulu the third county in Hawaii (joining the Big Island and Kauai) to eliminate smoking in cars when a minor is present.

Mahalo,
Sally Ancheta
Sally Ancheta
Hawai'i Public Health Institute/Coalition for Tobacco-Free Hawai'i- East Hawai'i Community Coalition Coordinator
sally@hiphi.org or 808-936-2686

Sincerely,
Sally Ancheta
741 Heahea St Hilo, HI 96720-5581