

PEA Committee

From: Laksmi Abraham <Laksmi.Abraham@sharecare.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 5:59 PM
To: PEA Committee
Subject: PEA-41 Testimony

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of PEA-41, which would prohibit smoking and vaping in a motor vehicle when a minor is present on Maui.

I have been working in youth sports for over 20 years. I've had the pleasure of following my purpose by helping our youth find life success through the game of soccer. I've coached for the Olympic Development Program, High School Varsity Program and now I'm coaching and a board member with the largest youth soccer club on Maui, representing over 300 kids and 700 plus members. I've also served on various health and human service boards and committees throughout my career.

As someone that volunteers and works with our youth on a regular basis, smelling the third hand smoke coming off of kids clothes, knowing that they have no say in the exposure levels they are exposed to is troubling. If an adult wants to smoke in their vehicle that's one thing, but subjecting an infant or even a minor to this should not be accepted. The potential health risks to our youth should override the adults perceived right to 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. Inhaling secondhand smoke is especially harmful because children's lungs are still developing.

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 make Maui the third county in Hawai'i (joining the Big Island and Kaua'i) to eliminate smoking in cars when a minor is present.

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