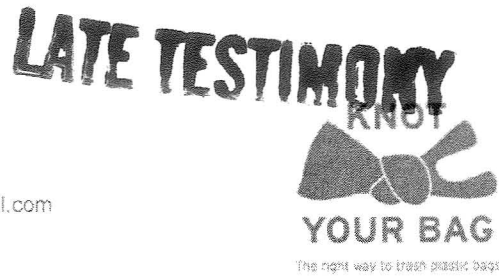




**HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

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February 3, 2009

To: House Committee on Health  
Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President  
Lauren Zirbel, government Relations

Re: HB 327 RELATING TO CIGARETTES

Chairs & Committee Members:

While we share the concerns of the sponsors of this legislation regarding underage tobacco use, we oppose this legislation, because we do not believe that it fairly accounts for the legitimate preferences of our adult tobacco consumers.

The Legislature continues to place the blame for minors smoking on the industry that legitimately sells the product to adults, while neglecting to place responsibility on the minors.