



BAN THE BAN!

T-Minus ____ days to Nov. 8, 2008.
Let's work together to fix this.
Let's return to the Pre-Nov. 16 status.
It was just and reasonable for all then.

Pacific Business News AGREES!

"Consider Letting Some Bars Offer Smoking"
(February 16, 2007 Vol. 44 No. 51)

Let each bar owner decide...Let each patron decide...
Let each worker decide!

Star Bulletin

Ask bar owners how ban affects them

I can't sit back and take this anymore. Hye-ryeon Lee's letter in the Dec. 2 Star-Bulletin just put the icing on the cake. She said that since its inception one year ago, the smoking ban has been good for Hawaii and for businesses. Where is she getting her information? Certainly not the bar owners. Why did 16 dispenser licenses and four cabaret licenses not get renewed? Because they went out of business. These figures are from the Liquor Commission.

Lee says a smoke-free Hawaii helps brand our state a desirable destination. If that is the case, then why is Japanese tourism down 2.6 percent from a year ago? International visitors are down 4.6 percent from a year ago, and this is with a favorable exchange rate.

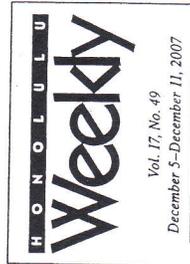
We are all intelligent people who can make up our own minds about what is good for us and what is not. I don't have a problem with the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association or the American Cancer Society. I do, however, have a problem with the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii. Tobacco is a legal product in Hawaii. And as long as tobacco is a legal product, Hawaii will never be tobacco free.

Something is wrong with this legislation. I can sell tobacco in my bars and pubs, the state gets its much-needed taxes to fund its cancer research center, but my patrons have to go outside to enjoy a legal product.

Fred Remington
E & J Lounge Operating Co.
Honolulu

The Alliance: (200,000 strong)
Continuing to IGNITE the Fire of
the Hawaii Smoker Voting Block.

(We are now in the process of building the largest voting
block ever in the history of Hawaii...we WILL impact)
Brought To Your Attention By:
The Hawaii Bar Owners Association
(HIBOA at hiboa.net)
HawaiiSmokersAlliance.com
TheSmokeVote.com



You're asking the wrong people

Each major publication on this island has had stories that the smoking ban has no or little effect on businesses, one year after its inception. My question is this: "Who have you talked to?" Certainly not the bar owners. There are 16 fewer dispenser licenses and four fewer cabaret licenses this year than last. The majority of them out of business because of the state's new smoking ban. In the time frame of one year, from October 2006 to October 2007, the total visitor count to the state is down 1.3 percent. The international visitor count is down 7.4 percent and that is with a very favorable exchange rate. Japanese tourism is down 8.3 percent. These figures are directly from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's website. That equates to a loss to the state of approximately \$6.8 million in revenue.

You asked the wrong people. You asked restaurant owners in Honolulu if the law had any effect on them. Of course it didn't have any effect on them. They had been in compliance of the city and county ordinance that took effect in July 2003. In essence, that ordinance stated that if your establishment's total food sales was more than 33 percent of your total sales, then you were considered a restaurant and could not allow smoking. Those establishments have been in compliance since 2003. Of course they didn't have any negative impact since the state ban went into effect in November of 2006. But it did have a very negative impact on the bars and pubs whose food sales were less than 33 percent and could still allow smoking by law.

The American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association are all excellent non-profit organizations with good intentions. They educate the public about the hazards of smoking and the long-term effects that it may have on an individual. The majority of adults who do smoke do so at their own choice and risk, even with this given knowledge from these fine organizations. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i, on the other hand, has an uphill battle. You see, tobacco is a legal product. It can be purchased legally in most corner stores and supermarkets and also in bars and restaurants. The State of Hawai'i receives millions of dollars from the excessive tax on tobacco. Ironically, some of these dollars are used to fund the Cancer Research Center for the state. As long as tobacco is legal, Hawai'i will never be tobacco free.

As long as it is a legal product, why not let the establishments that sell food and alcohol decide if they want to allow smoking in their place of business or not? It should be the establishment's choice and not mandated by the government. For those establishments that do allow smoking, have a sign posted at the entrance warning the public that it is a smoking establishment and to enter at their own risk, very similar to a nightclub that allows nude dancing. It's posted for the general public to see before they enter. You know what you're walking into before you actually do. It's your choice to do so.

Another alternative is to issue a different classification of a liquor license to those establishments that would like to allow smoking. It would be a win-win situation for all parties concerned. The smokers, the non-smokers, the liquor commission, the police, and maybe, just maybe, the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i.

Fred Remington
President
Hawai'i Bar Owners Association
Honolulu

Our Motto:

** "One has a Moral Responsibility to DISOBEY UNJUST LAWS"

—Martin Luther King

** "If a law is Unjust, a man has not only the right to Disobey it,
He is OBLIGED to do so" —Thomas Jefferson



The DID YOU KNOW Health Bit For the Day!

Got Gout? Try a daily glass of Cherry Juice concentrate!
And drink plenty of DISTILLED WATER!!!!

