

# ISSUE BRIEF MAUI COUNTY SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE

GOOD FOR HEALTH. GOOD FOR BUSINESS.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CREATING HEALTHY SMOKE-FREE HOUSING IN HAWAII, VISIT [HAWAII.SMOKEFREEHOMES.ORG](http://HAWAII.SMOKEFREEHOMES.ORG)

## TOP REASONS TO PASS A SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE:

- THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF SECONDHAND SMOKE
- SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING IS GOOD FOR HEALTH & GOOD FOR BUSINESS
- VENTILATION AND FILTRATION IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION
- SMOKE-FREE POLICIES PROTECT PROPERTY VALUE AND OWNERS
- MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS AND MANAGERS SUPPORT SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING
- CHANGING RULES TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN CONDOS AND APARTMENTS IN HAWAII CAN BE A BURDENSOME CHALLENGE
- THE ONLY WAY TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT ALL MULTI-UNIT HOUSING RESIDENTS FROM THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE IS A 100% SMOKE-FREE BUILDING

MULTI-UNIT HOUSING IS A CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSING WHERE MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL UNITS ARE CONTAINED WITHIN ONE BUILDING OR MULTIPLE BUILDINGS, SUCH AS APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM COMPLEXES. MULTI-UNIT HOUSING IS DEFINED BY THE SHARING OF WALLS BETWEEN UNITS IN A BUILDING.

## WHAT IS A SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE?

A smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinance is a smoke-free air law that would protect residents, visitors, and staff from the harmful effects of involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke in all multi-unit housing developments across Maui County. The passage of a smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinance for Maui County would mean that all multi-unit housing developments, including apartment buildings, condominium complexes, and individual units and lanais, would be smoke-free.

# WHY IS A SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE IMPORTANT?



## WHEN ONE PERSON SMOKES, THE WHOLE BUILDING SMOKES

“My child and I have been suffering from second hand smoke exposure for years in Kīhei complex. As a neighbor to someone who smokes, we cannot avoid being seriously impacted in our unit.”

- Kīhei complex resident and mother

### GOOD FOR HEALTH.

### GOOD FOR BUSINESS.



- There is **NO SAFE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND SMOKE.**



- Smoke-free policies protect nonsmokers from an additional **20-30% RISK OF HEART DISEASE, STROKE, AND LUNG CANCER.**



- Up to **65% OF AIR IN ANY GIVEN UNIT IS SHARED** from other units and common areas.



- **38.9% OF HAWAII'S POPULATION LIVE IN MULTI-UNIT HOUSING.** Maui county has the second highest volume of multiunit housing in the state.



- Many residents who live in multi-unit housing are especially vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including **KEIKI, KUPUNA, AND THOSE WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS,** and **THE MAIN PLACE YOUNG CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO SECONDHAND SMOKE IS IN THE HOME.**



- Smoke-free buildings **HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO QUIT** smoking succeed.



- It is easier to rent or sell smoke-free homes, and **86% OF MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS WOULD PREFER SMOKE-FREE HOUSING** to housing where smoking is permitted (Ward Research, 2019).



- Smoke-free policies **IMPROVE AND PROTECT PROPERTY VALUE,** resulting in **LESS MAINTENANCE COSTS** associated with smoke damage, cleaning, repair, painting, furniture replacement, and other maintenance and administrative costs.



- Going smoke-free **LOWERS THE RISK OF FIRE AND DAMAGE,** as fires caused by smoking result in more deaths and property damage than any other cause.



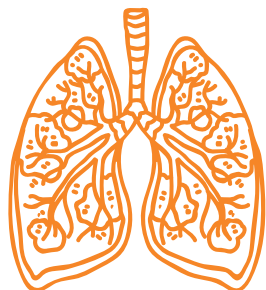
- Smoke-free multi-unit housing policies **REDUCE POTENTIAL LEGAL LIABILITY.** Without smoke-free buildings, a housing provider may face legal claims from tenants who suffer harm from exposure to secondhand smoke on the premises.



- **A NO-SMOKING POLICY IS NOT A NO-SMOKER POLICY.** Everyone is welcome, but smokers will have to step away from the building to smoke.

# WHY DOES MAUI COUNTY NEED A SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING POLICY NOW?

- Of the 76 Maui County multi-unit residents surveyed by Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (CTFH), **87% SUPPORT A SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE.**
- **VENTILATION AND FILTRATION IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION.** Ventilation systems cannot eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke. In fact, these systems can distribute secondhand smoke throughout a building.
- **CHANGING RULES OR BYLAWS** to prohibit smoking at individual condominium and apartment complexes in Hawai'i can be a **BURDENSOME CHALLENGE.** Many efforts fail due to people not voting.
- **NEARLY 50%** of the Maui County multi-unit housing residents surveyed by CTFH indicate that they **ARE EXPOSED TO SECONDHAND SMOKE IN THEIR OWN UNITS DAILY TO WEEKLY.**
- **OVER HALF** of Maui County multi-unit resident respondents surveyed by CTFH report that secondhand smoke exposure causes symptoms that are bothersome, while several even require medication to manage or **MAY HAVE LIFE THREATENING CONSEQUENCES.**
- **LUNG HEALTH HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT.** COVID-19 has exacerbated conditions where people are involuntarily exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes.



I am a condo owner in Kihei where one of the owners has rented her unit to smokers, and it has been drifting into my unit night and day, which is causing me chest pain, coughing, headaches, and hoarseness. I am now one of the many who suffer from asthma and must live on inhalers due to daily second-hand smoke exposure.

- Tina Oman, Kihei resident and condo owner



Being a parent of four young children, I was appalled that the condominium complex that my family was living in allows smoking anywhere on the complex grounds, including the balconies and in the units. My daughter's bedroom is right above the lanai of the unit below us, and every night the cigarette smoke would go into her room. When I called the property management company, they said that nothing could be done. This should not be able to happen in any multiunit dwelling for the sake of clean air for everyone.

- Kanamu Balinbin, Kahana resident



I support a smoke-free multiunit housing ordinance for Maui County because it would help protect the health of our residents, including our developing children, and help support managers efforts to maintain clean, safe, healthy environments for residents, visitors, and staff. Especially now with the Covid-19 pandemic which is a respiratory virus, it is more important than ever to keep our air clean and our lungs healthy! This seems to me to be one of the easiest ways to battle this virus and slow the spread of Covid-19 in our community.

- Angelika Hofmann, Kihei resident, condo owner and property manager



**THE ONLY WAY TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT ALL MULTI-UNIT HOUSING RESIDENTS FROM THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE IS A 100% SMOKE-FREE BUILDING.**

## THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT A SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE FOR MAUI COUNTY:



MAUI DENTAL GROUP



**MORE ENDORSEMENTS COMING SOON!**  
We are currently in the process of gathering endorsements. To be listed as an endorser, please email Katie Folio at [katie@hiphi.org](mailto:katie@hiphi.org)



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HAWAII PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE AT [WWW.HIPHI.ORG](http://WWW.HIPHI.ORG)

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