

2023 Hawai'i Public Health Institute Elected Official Survey

Mahalo for participating in [Hawai'i Public Health Institute's](#) 2023 elected official survey. Your participation is valuable in helping our coalitions, partners, and listserv of over 5,000 advocates learn your position on public health issues that are important to them. As a 501(c)(3), Hawai'i Public Health Institute will use the information for educational purposes only.

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Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Regulations

Please indicate your position on the following statements and policies by selecting either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts with the Tobacco Prevention & Control Trust Fund and tobacco taxes.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Maintain the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

End the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol and flavored e-liquids, in the state.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Restore the ability of the County Councils to regulate tobacco products at the point of sale.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Additional thoughts/comments

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Please indicate your position on the following statements and policies by selecting either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Impose a fee on sugar-sweetened beverages that would be reinvested in community health, specifically school programs that would uplift the health of keiki and families through investments to address insufficient access to drinking water in schools, provide physical education, oral health programs, and healthier meals for all students.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Increase food systems workforce development, by publicly investing in both agricultural and food systems education and farm to school and farmer training programs.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Use state funding to support the growth of the DA BUX program, which doubles the value of a SNAP dollar when a beneficiary buys eligible, locally-grown produce. This provided state funding is matched with federal funding up to 100%.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Require and fund health and physical education (PE) courses for middle school students. PE is required for elementary and high school students.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Additional thoughts/comments

Oral Health

Please indicate your position on the following statements and policies by selecting either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Reinstate and fund the oral health branch under the Department of Health to promote best practices and support oral health surveillance systems.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Create a statewide oral health task force to identify gaps in care and recommend best practices to address care gaps.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Create and fund oral health screening and sealant programs for children in public and charter schools to increase access to preventive oral health services.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Support funding for dental hygiene academic programs on neighbor islands to increase statewide auxiliary dental workforce.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Additional thoughts/comments

Alcohol Regulations

Please indicate your position on the following statements and policies by selecting either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) threshold for driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol should be lowered from 0.08 to 0.05 BAC.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Create a non-criminal infraction with a fine (e.g., \$300 or \$500) for alcohol-impaired driving between 0.05 to 0.79 BAC.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Create a non-criminal infraction with a license revocation (e.g., 1 or 2-week revocation) for alcohol-impaired driving between 0.05 to 0.79 BAC.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Create a non-criminal infraction with a vehicle interlock device (e.g. 1-2 months) for alcohol-impaired driving between 0.05 to 0.79 BAC.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Increase the state excise tax on alcohol to reduce alcohol consumption and its related harm as well as increase tax revenue to support funding for one of the following areas: education, affordable housing, mental health, or substance use treatment.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Additional thoughts/comments

We should require those caught driving with BAC between 0.05 and 0.079 to go to treatment, rather than being arrested and charged with a crime.

Cannabis Regulations

Please indicate your position on the following statements and policies by selecting either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Recreational cannabis use should be legalized in Hawai'i.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

The regulatory body for any legalized recreational cannabis program should be housed within the Department of Health and recreational cannabis should be comprehensively regulated similar to our tobacco laws to deter misuse and access by minors.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

The location of recreational cannabis retailers must be within a specified distance from schools (school buffer zones) and other recreational cannabis retail shops.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Additional thoughts/comments

I think that the regulatory authority for adult use cannabis should be a state entity that is attached to a state agency, rather than within the DOH. It makes sense to include within this regulatory entity the authority to regulate medical cannabis, adult-use cannabis and hemp. I think the Counties should have the authority to make restrictions on the locations for cannabis production, processing and retail operations. It's a good idea to establish buffer zones around schools where no cannabis facility is allowed.

Strengthen Safety Social Net Services

Please indicate your position on the following statements and policies by selecting either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Create a statewide Paid Family Leave Program, allowing up to 12 weeks for employees to care for a newborn, bond with an adopted or foster child, or care for a family member with a qualifying health condition.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Dedicate state funds to support Hawai'i's emergency food system (food banks, food pantries, etc.).

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

As was done through a temporary federal program during the COVID-19 pandemic, the state should provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of income, enrolled in DOE public and charter schools.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Residential housing density should be increased to provide more affordable housing options for local families.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Expand SNAP benefits beyond the 200% Federal Poverty Line, creating a step down approach tied to income increases instead of removing all food benefits at once to support struggling ALICE families.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

What is the number one issue to address currently to make Hawai'i more affordable for residents?

Establish more affordable housing in Hawaii.

Additional thoughts/comments

I need more information on the cost of a statewide family leave program and the cost of providing free breakfast and lunch to all students in public school. It makes sense to provide some dedicated funding to food banks, but I'm not sure yet how much

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