



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**REPORT FINDS NO ADVERSE ECONOMIC HARM FROM HAWAII
SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE LAW**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) released the findings of a report that found no evidence to suggest that the Hawai'i Smoke-free Workplace Law, which went into effect in November 2006, has harmed the hospitality or tourism industries.

The report, titled “*One Year After the Hawai'i Smoke-free Law: Tourism and Hospitality Indicators Appear Unaffected*” was prepared by Andrew Hyland, PhD and Cheryl Higbee, MPH of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York. The Roswell Park Cancer Institute had previously completed similar studies for other states (New York and Delaware) and other nations (Australia and Scotland) following the passage of their smoke-free workplace laws.

“We anticipated that, like other states where similar laws have been enacted, there would be no negative economic impact,” Health Director Chiyome L. Fukino, M.D. said. “These findings have helped to confirm our original assumptions. Moving forward, the Department of Health will continue to assess visitor industry data to track changes.”

The report, which looked at economic indicators from the tourism and hospitality industry, determined that there are 212 more people working in the Hawai'i visitor industry after the law went into effect compared to the year before the law. There were also 1,591 more jobs in the food and beverage services sector after the law compared to the year before.

(more)

Overall total monthly visitor spending in Hawai'i was comparable before and after the law (\$1.038 billion before the law compared to \$1.018 billion after the law), and monthly spending from visitors from Japan was comparable before and after the law (\$183 million before the law compared to \$168 million after the law).

The differences in these average levels before and after the law were within the range of variability experienced and were not unexpectedly high or low. In order to determine trends over time, the report reviewed visitor industry data before the law and 12 months following when the law took effect.

Other data sources such as the Honolulu Liquor Commission which tracks sales, employment, and licensure were considered, but could not be used because their data did not fall within the time period needed to evaluate the effect of the law. Their most recent figures available, covering fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) contained 4.5 months of pre-law data not useful to the report. In time, more data will be available to further study this issue.

Data on visitor spending was obtained from the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. Employment data was obtained from the Hawai'i Department of Labor & Industrial Relations and the Hawai'i Department of Taxation.

Copies of the report are available on the Department of Health website at:

http://hawaii.gov/health/about/reports/year_after_smoke.pdf

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