

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

June 20, 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) cares about your child(ren) and is aware that there are numerous social pressures and misinformation about the devastating impact of tobacco and e-cigarette products. As such, the Department is committed to working with you to keep your child(ren) away from these products. Please talk to your child(ren) about making healthy choices and the law regarding these products for persons under the age of 21.

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §712-1258, it is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to purchase or possess any tobacco product or electronic smoking device (ESD). An ESD is any electronic product that can aerosolize and deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device. This includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.

In addition, any tobacco product and ESD found in a student's possession is a violation of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Chapter 19, which can result in disciplinary actions. The school administration shall seize the ESD accordingly.

Should you have further questions, please talk to your child(ren)'s school administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Armstrong".

Heidi Armstrong
Deputy Superintendent

HA:ms
Attachment

VAPING

HARMS YOUR HEALTH

E-cigarettes can contain chemicals, such as formaldehyde, that can cause cancer.

Vaping can expose the user's lungs to harmful chemicals like formaldehyde, acrolein, and acetaldehyde, which are known to cause irreversible lung damage.^{1,3} Vape aerosol could be delivering metal particles like chromium, nickel, lead, tin and aluminum right into your lungs. Some of these metals are toxic.^{2,4}

Pursuant to [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §712-1258](#), it is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to purchase or possess any tobacco product or electronic smoking device.⁵

It is **UNLAWFUL**

Any tobacco product or electronic smoking device found in a student's possession is a violation of [Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Chapter 19](#) and shall be seized by school administration and handled in accordance with the memorandum for Disposal of Hazardous Material and Electronic Smoking Devices Procedures.⁶

References

1. Goniewicz ML, Knysak J, Gawron M, et al. Levels of selected carcinogens and toxicants in vapour from electronic cigarettes. *Tobacco Control* 2014; 23:133-139.
2. Olmedo P, et al. Metal Concentrations in e-Cigarette Liquid and Aerosol Samples: The Contribution of Metallic Coils. *Environmental Health Perspectives* (Online). 2018.
3. Rubinstein ML, Delucchi K, Benowitz NL, Ramo DE. Adolescent Exposure to Toxic Volatile Organic Chemicals From E-Cigarettes. *Pediatrics*. 2018.
4. Williams M, Villarreal A, Bozhilov K, Lin S, Talbot P (2013) Metal and Silicate Particles Including Nanoparticles Are Present in Electronic Cigarette Cartomizer Fluid and Aerosol. *PLoS ONE*.
5. Hawai'i Revised Statutes. https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol14_Ch0701-0853/HRS0712/HRS_0712-1258.htm
6. State of Hawai'i Board of Education. Hawai'i Administrative Rules Under Title 8 Chapter 19. <https://boe.hawaii.gov/policies/AdminRules/Pages/AdminRule19.aspx>

More information and resources

fda.gov/youthvapingresources • livinghealthy.hawaii.gov/tobacco-free/vaping/
health.hawaii.gov/tobacco/electronic-cigarettes/

