



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**HAWAI'I CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HAWAI'I SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE LAW**

HONOLULU – November 16, 2007 marks the one-year anniversary of the Hawai'i Smoke-Free Workplace Law passed in the 2006 legislative session and signed by Governor Linda Lingle. The law that prohibits smoking in public and enclosed places provides increased protections to employees from exposure to second-hand smoke.

Second-hand smoke, which includes smoke that comes from a burning cigarette, cigar, or pipe as well as the smoke exhaled by the person smoking, contains the same deadly poisons as smoke directly inhaled: 250 toxins in all, including at least 50 cancer causing substances. In the United States, 53,800 non-smokers die every year from smoking related diseases. Hawai'i was the 14th state to enact a law that greatly reduces smoking in indoor spaces, a recommendation of the 2006 US Surgeon General's Report on *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*.

“Overall we have seen a tremendous willingness among Hawai'i businesses, both large and small to comply with the law”, stated Deputy Director of Health Susan Jackson.

“They understand that the law helps to protect the health of their employees and patrons.”

The Great American Smoke Out, when smokers across the nation make the pledge to quit smoking, will also be celebrated in November. Since the implementation of the Hawaii Smoke Free Workplace Law, calls to the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW) from people ready to make a commitment to quit have doubled from 150 to 300 calls per month.

“Many community organizations, businesses, and individuals worked tirelessly over many years to make this law a reality,” said Jackson. “We are grateful for all their efforts in making Hawai‘i a much healthier place to work and to live,” added Jackson.

Events celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Hawaii Smoke Free Workplace Law are happening statewide. Visit the community calendar at www.clearthesmoke.org for a complete listing of events.

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