Electronic smoking devices (ESDs), also known as e-cigarettes, are battery operated devices that contain harmful ingredients such as nicotine and formaldehyde, which are inhaled as an aerosol by the user. In 2016, the FDA finalized a rule identifying ESDs as tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco products that are NOT regulated in Hawai’i.

**HEALTH RISKS**

- ESD use increases bronchitis and respiratory symptoms.
- Secondhand emissions from ESDs are not safe. Studies have detected formaldehyde, benzene, and other carcinogens in the aerosol.
- Teens and their developing brains are particularly vulnerable to the addictive effects of nicotine.

**COMPONENTS**

**ADDRESSING YOUTH USE OF E-CIGARETTES**

The 2016 Surgeon General’s Report on electronic cigarettes makes it clear that e-cigarettes pose a serious threat to the health of kids and young adults, and we should be doing everything we can to prevent young people from using these products.

In Hawai’i, e-cigarette has exceeded cigarettes as the most used tobacco product by youth.

3 THINGS HAWAI’I CAN DO

**Tax ESDs**

ESDs are the ONLY tobacco products that do not have a tobacco tax.

**Permits & Licenses**

ESD licensure is necessary to educate and enforce current laws impacting ESD retailers (i.e. age of sale).

**Online Sales**

Online sales remain unregulated and creates a loophole in our laws regarding age verification, taxation, and public health goals.

For more information on e-cigarettes and sources, please visit our website tobacofreehawaii.org or contact our Policy and Advocacy Director Trish La Chica at trish@hiphi.org