

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Hawaii is the first state raises smoking age to 21](#)

ZuGgY - January 1, 2016, 12:59 pm

Quote:HONOLULU -- Hawaii is raising the legal smoking age to 21 for traditional and electronic cigarettes on Jan. 1, becoming the first state in the nation to do so.

Public health officials are hoping that by making it more difficult for young people to get their hands on cigarettes, they will keep them from developing an unhealthy addiction.

"In Hawaii, about one in four students in high school try their first cigarette each year, and one in three who get hooked will die prematurely," said Lola Irvin, administrator with the chronic disease prevention and health promotion division of the Hawaii Department of Health.

Officials included electronic smoking devices in the law after noticing a spike in the number of students trying electronic cigarettes. The percentage of Hawaii public high school students smoking e-cigarettes quadrupled over four years to 22 percent in 2015, and among middle-schoolers, 12 percent reported using them in 2015, a sixfold increase over four years.

While Hawaii is the first state to raise the smoking age to 21, more than 100 cities and counties have already done so, including New York City. The town of Needham, Massachusetts, raised the smoking age to 21 in 2005, and a decade later the percentage of adults smoking was 50 percent lower than the rest of the state.

Several military bases in Hawaii expressed their support for the move, saying their bases would comply with the state law.

"We see it as a fitness and readiness issue," said Bill Doughty, spokesman for the Navy Region Hawaii. "When we can prevent sailors from smoking or using tobacco, if we can get them to quit, then that improves their fitness and readiness, and it saves them a ton of money too."

But critics say that if a man or woman is old enough to potentially die defending their country, they're old enough to make a decision about smoking. "If you can serve the country, you should be able to have a drink and a cigarette," said Justin Warren, 22, an X-ray technician in the Army.

Taylor Dwyer, 21, also an Army X-ray technician, said smoking is a "way for us to come down after the work day. It's not like a regular work day. It's a lot more stressful, especially for people who are in combat jobs."

Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, countered those arguments in a blog post, saying "If someone is young enough to fight for their country, they should be free from addiction to a deadly drug."

As the state begins enforcing the law, the first three months of the year will be dedicated to educating the public, so warnings will be handed out instead of fines, officials said.

After that, young people caught smoking will be fined \$10 for the first offense and \$50 or community service for any further offenses. Retailers caught selling cigarettes to people under 21 can be fined \$500 for the first offense and up to \$2,000 for later offenses.

Ultrasounds show fetuses react to mothers' smoking

The Health Department has distributed about 4,000 signs to 650 vendors, said Lila Johnson, public health educator at the agency. To reach tourists, officials have been meeting with representatives from the tourism industry, business and hotels, and officials plan to produce signs in different languages, she said.

"People are going to be coming in and out of our state that aren't aware of it," Johnson said. "It's a matter of education. We hope to see a lot more states picking it up so we're not the only one."

Sabrina Olaes, 18, said she started organizing events to educate her classmates about the dangers of smoking after getting frustrated finding herself surrounded by fumes from electronic cigarettes in the girl's bathroom at her school.

She called the tobacco industry's marketing practices deceptive, and said some of the flavors of electronic cigarettes are targeted at young people. But her smoking friends didn't always want to hear what she had to say.

"It's not easy conveying your opinions to people who may not agree with you, and I've definitely made a lot of enemies, but also a lot of allies," Olaes said. "Even though you don't get them to quit right away, you do get them to second-guess their choices."

[Source](#)

Who Soup, it must feel awesome now seeing stupid 18 year olds and under not being able to purchahse ciggys, eh?

Gameguy929 - January 2, 2016, 1:56 pm

I see 14-16 year olds smoking, won't stop them.

Cammy - January 2, 2016, 1:56 pm

(Jan 2, 2016 02:56 PM)Gameguy929 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I see 14-16 year olds smoking, won't stop them. This. If anything the amount of smokers will be increased

Spooky White - January 2, 2016, 1:57 pm

Hawaii is completely retarded, this won't stop anyone from smoking lmao.

?Zero - January 2, 2016, 3:28 pm

(Jan 2, 2016 02:57 PM)MagicFlakes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hawaii is completely retarded, this won't stop anyone from smoking lmao.

Who says they were trying to stop smoking?

A little Extra money won't hurt Hawaii from smoking tickets.

LilDurk - January 2, 2016, 3:31 pm

Oh my god, here in Belgium it's 16 years.

Well they are still going to get it in any way.

Biometric - January 2, 2016, 3:35 pm

I think this a good move tbh.

Houtarou - January 2, 2016, 4:00 pm

(Jan 1, 2016 01:59 PM)ZuGgY Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Public health officials are hoping that by making it more difficult for young people to get their hands on cigarettes

It won't make it harder at all lol. I do agree though, the smoking age should be 21 everywhere instead of 16 or 18.

TimmyWu - January 3, 2016, 6:53 am

Changing the age of smoking won't really do anything besides high or lower your chances of getting a smoking ticket because people will always be there to buy it for the ones who aren't the age.

Trillberto - January 3, 2016, 12:03 pm

I'm fine with the smoking age being 21. It won't stop the kids already smoking from smoking but it'll keep older kids in HS from buying the younger ones cigs and the people that wait until the legal age to do shit likely won't smoke like they would if they started at 18.

Tyler? - January 3, 2016, 7:21 pm

Not like this is going to make a difference.

Underage smoking is a thing...and this won't make it any better.

Strider64 - January 4, 2016, 9:52 am

I remember when I was high school (a long time ago) the school had a smoking area for kids, remember most children are 14-17 years old. I never smoked, but I remember walking past the smoking area and seeing the principal there (I can't remember if he smoked or not) and doing absolutely nothing. I don't know if they still have a smoking area, but they didn't enforce underage smoking back then, I doubt they would enforce it now (no matter what the smoking age is).

Who Soup - January 6, 2016, 9:16 pm

(Jan 1, 2016 01:59 PM)ZuGgY Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Who Soup, it must feel awesome now seeing stupid 18 year olds and under not being able to purchase ciggys, eh?

haha yeah, not so much cigs but SOOOOOOO many kids vape here. Super irritating.

Slavicy512 - January 7, 2016, 5:20 am

That's actually one of the smartest moves that a country can make.

Smoking kills not less than alcohol each year, that's why, raising the smoking age to 21, will prevent from stupid teens to get addicted to this shit, at least at early age.

OldPhilosophicalMan - January 7, 2016, 5:31 am

(Jan 4, 2016 10:52 AM)Strider64 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I remember when I was high school (a long time ago) the school had a smoking area for kids, remember most children are 14-17 years old. I never smoked, but I remember walking past the smoking area and seeing the principal there (I can't remember if he smoked or not) and doing absolutely nothing. I don't know if they still have a smoking area, but they didn't enforce underage smoking back then, I doubt they would enforce it now (no matter what the smoking age is).

Seems like you lived in the ghetto or something.

Neutronic - January 7, 2016, 1:34 pm

I don't smoke but this is a step towards people trying to stop young people from smoking it seems.

TheComplexMind - January 7, 2016, 2:49 pm

Like it makes a difference. People always find ways to do it whether they are aloud or not aloud. If they are increasing the age that tells me something. I'm against smoking, I see no point in it, relieves stress? More like it adds stress later on in your life.

ZuGgY - January 7, 2016, 3:42 pm

(Jan 6, 2016 10:16 PM)Who Soup Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) haha yeah, not so much cigs but SOOOOOOO

many kids vape here. Super irritating.
Still better than cigs I guess. I hate em.

gas66 - January 8, 2016, 5:29 am

I learned one thing from personal experience and that is that even if the age was 50 i'd still would of purchased the smokes a few years back when i was under the legal age to buy them.

With alcohol and cigarettes is either BANNED or under age idiots will find a way to buy them and that's the fact.. Don't know a kid including myself that didn't find a way to get either of those even though they are under age. The only thing that actually happend is that i met with some idiotic individuals whom i'd meet infront of liquor stores on the streets and ask them to buy them for me therefore striking regular conversation and getting in deep shit a couple of times.

And all this is if you live in a country where they actually care about the age, many third world countries and even developed countries in EU where smoking is very socially acceptable will not ask you for age at all, they'd sell 14-15 year olds just cause they look 18 or almost 18.

?MIN?M - January 8, 2016, 9:59 am

I'll buy cig's for a 17 yr old.

return the favor for the guy who use to buy me chew as a pre teen lol

Vibe - January 8, 2016, 10:05 am

most kids 14-16 are in highschool where kids are also 18. So if their can't get them it'd be like finding someone to get liquor, which isn't the hardest thing to do, but normally someone 21 isn't really hanging out with highschool crowd to much and would be going out of the way.

?ystem - January 8, 2016, 10:10 am

Ugh. -.- Does the Government ever learn?

All this will serve to do is probably raise the smoker to non-smoker ratio due to how "naughty" it is to smoke now, and people urging for their chance to look cool doing vape tricks or appearing like a new-age "badass".

Just watch.

Vibe - January 8, 2016, 11:48 am

(Jan 8, 2016 11:10 AM)?ystem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Ugh. -.- Does the Government ever learn?

All this will serve to do is probably raise the smoker to non-smoker ratio due to how "naughty" it is to smoke now, and people urging for their chance to look cool doing vape tricks or appearing like a new-age "badass".

Just watch.

What do you mean raise the ratio?

webdev77 - January 8, 2016, 11:56 am

(Jan 2, 2016 05:00 PM)Tiffany Alvord Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It won't make it harder at all lol. I do agree though, the smoking age should be 21 everywhere instead of 16 or 18.

I agree with this. Mostly because I want it banned from my University campus entirely.

Torvus - January 9, 2016, 10:19 am

It actually will do some good. Not every pre-smoking-age smoker has access to all of the cigarettes that they desire. For example, I started smoking at 14. My parents would not buy me cigarettes because even though they were asshats, they did not want me to smoke and hurt myself with cigarettes. For 4 years, I had to find alter native ways of obtaining cigarettes because I couldn't buy them myself. If my parents bought me cigarettes through those 4 years instead, I would have

smoked MANY more cigarettes throughout high school than I actually did. Less harm done this way.

Incognito™ - January 9, 2016, 11:34 am

I started chewing tobacco when I was 16/17 the legal age was 18 and it wasn't hard to find it. I understand it probably won't stop people from smoking but will generate some revenue for smoking tickets.

Honestly tobacco is not worth it in the long run. Cool keks will be cool.

bbence7869 - January 9, 2016, 12:56 pm

Who wants to smoke will get his tobacco after that too.

This doesn't make a sense.

Pøw°CøM?ü? - January 12, 2016, 11:40 pm

I from Maui and I think it's a good idea too do that. There are a lot of kids at school who think that there top shit cause they can smoke

Tanaleer - June 24, 2019, 12:10 pm

I am also from Hawaii and I believe that it is not beneficial at all.

In fact I believe it actually encourages kids to vape, which I'm still very skeptical on long term health wise

ShowDown - June 24, 2019, 12:22 pm

(Jun 24, 2019 12:10 PM)Tanaleer Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am also from Hawaii and I believe that it is not beneficial at all.

In fact I believe it actually encourages kids to vape, which I'm still very skeptical on long term health wise

nice input from 3 YEARS AGO