

IMPACTS OF POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Policy & Legislation

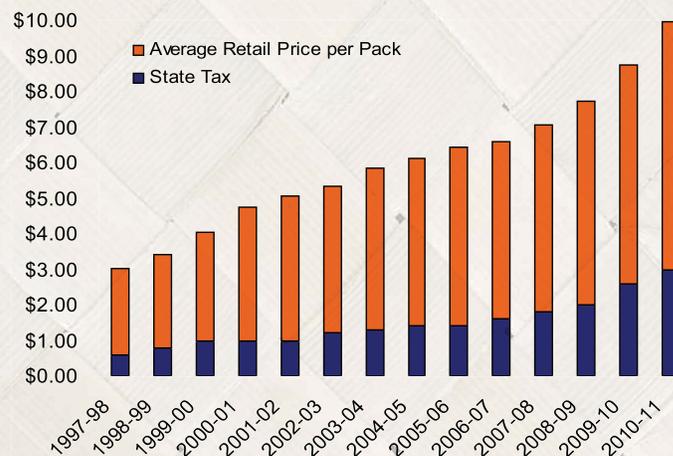
On November 16, 2006, Hawai'i became the 14th state to enact comprehensive protection against secondhand smoke for all its citizens. The law prohibits smoking in enclosed and partially enclosed public spaces (such as restaurants, bars, clubs, airports and theaters). Smoking is not allowed in places of employment or within 20 feet of doorways and windows to buildings.

As of December 1, 2006, all retailers in Hawai'i that sell tobacco products are required to have a tobacco retail permit from the Department of Taxation. This will allow better monitoring of tobacco sales.

Cigarette Tax Revenues

Figure 14 depicts the state tax per pack as a proportion of average retail price per pack tax from fiscal years 1997–2011.

Figure 14. State Cigarette Tax and Average Retail Price per pack, Fiscal Years 1997–2011, Hawai'i Department of Taxation



OVERVIEW

Smoking and tobacco use remain the leading cause of preventable illness and death in Hawai'i and in the nation. Since 1991, the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program at the Hawai'i State Department of Health along with many agency and community partners have developed and implemented a comprehensive program to reduce tobacco use in Hawai'i. The program emphasizes the national goals and Hawai'i strategic plan strategies in preventing initiation, promoting quitting, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke, and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use. A major component of a comprehensive tobacco control program is surveillance and evaluation to monitor progress towards goals. This document is an effort to summarize the available data on tobacco use and related issues in one place to provide an overview of tobacco use in Hawai'i.

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