



HAWAII Energy Marketers Association Report

Hawaii Energy Marketers Association (HEMA) was diligently tracking a number of legislative bills that would potentially impact our member companies. Under a bill relating to youth vaping, the State Senate approved a bill prohibiting the sale or distribution of all flavored tobacco products, including products with menthol in Hawaii, effective July 1, 2022. The bill would greatly impact sales to adults at our retail stores, which we believe is a constitutional overreach. Our concern is that this will generate a demand for a black-market sale of illegal and possibly dangerous, unregulated products.



Eric Wright
HEMA President

Mahalo to Our Golf Sponsors!

Monday April 25, 2022

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Trying to keep balance with one of the highest costs of living in the nation, a bill resurfaced again this session to increase the minimum wage. The House proposed an incremental increase over time: \$12 per hour beginning Oct. 1, 2022; \$15 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2024; and \$18 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2026, which was later amended to Jan. 1, 2028. Similarly, the Senate proposed and passed a bill that would increase the minimum hourly wage to \$18 by 2026. The House draft amendments would reach \$18 per hour by 2028. HEMA continued to show its support for the intent of a wage increase, but expressed concerns about an increase exceeding \$15 per hour.

Under the banner of environmental protection, the Hawaii State Legislature introduced a new bill in this year's session seeking to ban the manufacture, sale, or distribution of wraps and liners, plates, food boats, pizza boxes, and firefighting foams that contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. A few HEMA members teamed up in a unified voice requesting that firefighting foam be excluded from the ban. These members sought amendments to the bill to allow these proven foams to be used in extinguishing and controlling petroleum fires.

Finally, we wanted to acknowledge and thank our participants and sponsors of the 2022 HEMA Golf Tournament at Ko Olina Golf Club on April 25th. The 28 golfers were treated to a beautiful day of golf, and an awards reception at Roy's Ko Olina restaurant. Events like this remind us why we are lucky to live in Hawaii.