



'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi
Connections Public Charter School

Tobacco-Free and Electronic Smoking Device-Free Policy

1. Purpose and Rationale

Connections Public Charter School (CPCS) is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive learning and working environment for all students, staff, and visitors. This policy was established to protect the CPCS community from the detrimental health effects associated with tobacco use, nicotine addiction, and exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol from electronic smoking devices. This policy complies with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §302A-102 and Hawaii State Board of Education's Administrative Rules §8-31-3.

2. Authority

This policy was established in accordance with:

- Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 302A-102, which prohibits tobacco products and electronic smoking devices in public schools.
- Hawaii State Board of Education's Administrative Rules §8-31-3, establishing a tobacco-free school system.

3. Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to all individuals on CPCS premises, including but not limited to:

- Students enrolled at CPCS.
- All school employees (administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers).
- Visitors, guests, contractors, and vendors.
- Persons participating in or attending non-school activities or events conducted on the school campus, even when school is not in session.

This policy is in effect at all times and covers:

- All CPCS indoor and outdoor areas, including buildings, grounds, athletic fields, and parking lots ("Premises" as per HRS §302A-102(c)).
- All school vehicles (e.g., buses, vans).
- All school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events, whether on or off CPCS premises.
- Off-campus sites under the operational control of the principal or designee.

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined:

- **Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS):** Any electronic device that delivers nicotine, flavor, or any other substance to the user through an aerosolized solution. This includes, but is not limited to, e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, e-cigars, vape pens, advanced refillable personal vaporizers, and electronic pipes, as well as any components, liquids, parts, or accessories for such devices. This does not include products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation or other therapeutic purposes when marketed and sold solely for such approved purposes.
- **Electronic Smoking Device (ESD):** Has the same meaning as in section 304A-122 and is consistent with the definition of ENDS above.
- **Smoking:** Has the same meaning as in section 304A-122, including the use of electronic smoking devices.
- **Tobacco Product:** Has the same meaning as in section 712-1258. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes (as defined in section 486P-1), cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption.
- **Tobacco Use:** Has the same meaning as in section 304A-122, including smoking, chewing, or any other form of tobacco consumption.

5. Prohibitions

The use, possession, sale, distribution, or promotion of any tobacco product or electronic smoking device is strictly prohibited on CPCS premises and at all school-sponsored events, as defined in Section 3 of this policy. This prohibition applies to all individuals at all times.

6. Exceptions

The only exception to this policy is for the use of tobacco products as part of a bona-fide classroom instruction or theatrical production, which must be pre-approved in writing by the CPCS Principal or designee. A detailed plan outlining the educational purpose and safety precautions must be submitted for approval.

7. Education and Prevention

CPCS is responsible for educating students, employees, and visitors about the prohibitions pursuant to HRS §302A-102(b) and this policy. This will be achieved through:

- Inclusion of this policy in student and employee handbooks.
- Age-appropriate instruction for students on the health risks associated with tobacco and ESD use.
- Information provided during new student and employee orientations.
- Regular communication with parents/guardians and the wider school community.

8. Cessation Support

CPCS encourages students and staff who use tobacco or ESDs to seek assistance in quitting. Information on cessation resources (e.g., Hawaii Tobacco Quitline, school counseling services, community programs) will be made available.

9. Enforcement

All members of the CPCS community share the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

- **Students:** Violations by students will be addressed in accordance with the CPCS Student Code of Conduct, which may include parent/guardian notification, confiscation of prohibited items, educational interventions, counseling, and/or disciplinary actions.
- **Employees:** Violations by employees will be addressed in accordance with CPCS personnel policies and collective bargaining agreements, which may include verbal or written warnings, and/or disciplinary actions.
- **Visitors, Contractors, and Other Individuals:** Individuals who violate this policy will be informed of the policy and asked to comply. If they fail to comply, they may be asked to leave the premises. Repeated violations may result in further action, including being barred from CPCS property or events.
- **Confiscation:** Any tobacco product or ESD found on CPCS premises or at school-sponsored events in violation of this policy may be confiscated.

10. Signage

Clearly legible signs stating that smoking, including the use of electronic smoking devices, and tobacco use are prohibited by law will be prominently displayed at all entrances to CPCS premises and at other conspicuous outdoor locations.

11. Policy Communication and Dissemination

This policy will be:

- Made available on the CPCS website.
- Included in student and employee handbooks.
- Communicated to parents/guardians through school newsletters or other appropriate channels.
- Provided to organizations using school facilities.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the CPCS Governing Board and updated as needed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and to address the evolving needs of the school community.