

Is a Tough Smoking Law Coming to Your State?



If you don't like being around cigarette smoke, Hawaii is a great place to visit. Besides being known for its warm weather and beautiful beaches, Hawaii now is known for having one of the toughest anti-smoking laws in the U.S.

The Smoke-Free Hawaii Law took effect two months ago. State lawmakers say the law was passed to protect non-smokers from breathing cigarette smoke. The law bans smoking in all public places including restaurants, businesses, bowling alleys, malls, and airports. Besides banning smoking in most indoor areas, it now is illegal to smoke in seating areas of outdoor stadiums and theaters, in partly enclosed areas, and within 20 feet of doors or windows.

The new law also says hotels can set aside only 20 percent of their rooms for smokers. All those rooms must be on the same floors and next to each other.

People who violate the new smoking law can be fined \$50. Fines for businesses start at \$100.

NEWS WORD BOX

anti-smoking	
tough	business
limit	stadium
illegal	enclosed

Hawaii is one of 14 states to have a law that limits where people can smoke. More than 150 cities also ban smoking in many indoor areas.

MORE FACTS ABOUT HAWAII'S ANTI-SMOKING LAW

- Some people in Hawaii are worried that the law will cut down on the number of visitors who travel from countries where people can smoke wherever they want.
- Only about 17 percent of adults in Hawaii smoke, which is the fourth-lowest rate in the U.S.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Many people think Hawaii's law is a good idea. Others worry that the law will hurt business. Do you think more states should pass tough smoking laws? Why or why not?