

The Honolulu

STAR BULLETIN

AGREES!!!

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EDITORIALS

[OUR OPINION]

Revise smoking ban to give options to bar owners

THE ISSUE

Bar owners are asking for relief from a ban on smoking on their premises.

STATE legislators are being asked to lift the prohibition on smoking in bars, even though the ban is being enforced. The ban is overly broad and not being enforced. The ban is entirely would be a but lifting it entirely would be a secondhand

lution — smoke, according to official figures.

When Hawaii's law went into effect, opponents warned that it would discourage tourism from Japan. While Japanese tourists dropped during the past year and even fewer are expected this year, tourism officials blame also fuel surcharges and fewer flights and hotel rooms, not the smoking ban. The movement to curtail smoking in public places has reached Japan, where smoking is prohibited in bars and some city streets but not yet in bars and restaurants.

Hawaii's 14-month-old law has resulted in no bars and only one person being cited by police for violation — not because of compliance. Jolyn Tenn of the Hawaii Smokers Alliance says about 75 bars across the state allow smoking in violation of the law. Legislators to grant them the right to al-