

## **Submission for 2024 Policy Address Public Consultation Reinstating and Increasing Alcohol Tax**

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In addition to yearly submissions made by the Hong Kong Alliance for Advocacy Against Alcohol for the Financial Secretary's preparation of annual budget, the Convenor of the Alliance made a written submission this year in the 2024 Policy Address Public Consultation to request the Chief Executive not to lift taxation on alcoholic beverages of more than 30% alcoholic content and to reinstate taxation on beverages containing no more than 30% alcohol.

The following facts were elaborated-

1. Alcohol is harmful not only to the drinker but also to others
2. Alcohol harm reduction without resort to the WHO recommended SAFER initiatives (namely raising alcohol tax, limiting alcohol accessibility, restricting alcohol marketing, enforcing drink driving laws and screening/treating alcohol use disorders) is unlikely to be effective
3. There is massive interference of the alcohol industry in government policy making