

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2025

RE: S.B. No. 319

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 319 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MARIJUANA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Change from one ounce to thirty grams the minimum amount of marijuana that constitutes the offense of promoting a detrimental drug in the second degree; and
- (2) Increase from three grams or less to fifteen grams or less the amount of marijuana that constitutes the offense of promoting a detrimental drug in the third degree.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender, Community Alliance on Prisons, Marijuana Policy Project, ACLU Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Alliance for Cannabis Reform.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of the Attorney General, Department of Law Enforcement, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i Police Department, Honolulu Police Department, Smart Approaches to Marijuana Hawaii, Hawaii Family Forum, and nine individuals.



Your Committee finds that the consequences of arresting, prosecuting, and incarcerating people for personal drug use are devastating. People who have been convicted of possession of small amounts of marijuana cycle through the criminal justice system and are not able to successfully contribute to society or have the support of their social network. Additionally, a criminal record can carry lasting, detrimental effects on finding employment, housing, and accessing educational opportunities. This measure will make the State's cannabis laws more responsible, just, and equitable.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 319 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 319	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 2/11/25
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)			✓	
CHANG, Stanley				✓
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	-	1	1/12

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**