



To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair HTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair CPN

Members of the Joint Health and Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

Fr: Jaclyn L. Moore, Pharm.D., CEO Big Island Grown Dispensaries

Re: Testimony in Support of HB477, House Draft (HD) 2 with suggested modifications to the caregiver provision.

Authorizes the department of health to allow a licensed dispensary to purchase up to three thousand grams of medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products from another licensed dispensary to ensure ongoing qualifying patient access. Increases the allowable number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per dispensary license. Places certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after 12/31/21. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after 12/31/21. Permits inspections of registered grow sites by department of health or law enforcement to verify compliance with cannabis plant limits for cultivation by qualifying patients. Limits dispensary-to-dispensary sales to those located on the same island, as long as federal law prohibits the transportation of medical cannabis over a body of water. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

Big Island Grown Dispensaries is one of eight dispensary licensees in the State. We operate a production facility and 3 retail locations on the Big Island of Hawaii. Our medical cannabis operation currently employs 60+ Big Island residents. We submit testimony today in **support of HB477 HD2 with suggested modifications to the caregiver provision. HB477 is an important bill for the legal cannabis industry in order to reinforce the medical cannabis dispensary program and legal infrastructure with additional facilities to strengthen patient access to clean, tested, safe cannabis medicine through regulated channels.**

Big Island Grown believes the original provisions in this bill provide a reasonable increase to the existing footprint which supports our ability to provide clean, tested, safe, high quality, regulated (and taxed) cannabis medicine to our island community.

PRODUCTION

One size does not fit all.

County restrictions and ordinances may not permit a build out of a facility to accommodate the maximum allowable plant count of 5,000. 11-850 strictly requires "if two production centers are located on the same property at the same address, they shall be in physically separated and individually identifiable structures with no shared exterior walls..." The combination of these creates a situation where some licensees with County restrictions are not able to satisfy the demand of their retail location(s) even with 2 production facilities operational. Kauai is a perfect example.

While there are some licensees not able to meet demand with the current allowable production, there are others able to scale up to assist within the current system. For example, Big Island Grown currently supplies greater than 20% of total cannabis weight in the State across all product categories

Lau Ola LLC, dba Big Island Grown Dispensaries
HILO WAIMEA KONA



sold in the dispensary system using only 25% of our allotted production capability (50% of one production facility in operations). This means we are able to scale up to a 4x minimum to meet wholesale needs of other licenses.

RETAIL

Slower growth on one island should not hold back the program and hinder legal access for patients on another island.

Both Big Island licensees have built out all three-retail locations for a total of 6 on the island currently operating. Even with this, there are still **underserved patient populations** stretching from Pahoia through Kau over to Ocean View. Patients in these areas drive upwards of an hour to visit the nearest dispensary locations on the island. Enabling more retail locations per current licensee enables a quicker rollout and opening of additional retail locations increasing legal access for patients. The increase in demand would require an increased plant count and/or additional production facility per licensee. We support the provision in this bill that would allow for an increase in production capabilities.

Delivery was a proposed solution last session, but met with resistance, so we respectfully request your support with this measure.

INTER ISLAND WHOLESALE BETWEEN LICENSEES

The foundation for a thriving medical program stimulated and fed by a diverse pipeline of products available to patients across the State. This is the single most important provision the industry needs. It is basic infrastructure that every successful cannabis program in the country has.

Allowing wholesale between licensees promotes a diverse pipeline of products and enables patients in every County to access specialized formulations, that may not otherwise be available. This a much-needed component to overcome the restrictions that are inherent in a vertical program where each licensee is currently required to grow, process, manufacture, package, transport, and dispense cannabis

and manufactured products that are 100% manufactured in house only. This essentially requires a licensee to be a jack of all trades in cultivation, and in product development, and formulations. Wholesale between licensees would successfully address this by enabling dispensaries to purchase and dispense formulations that may not otherwise be developed until this program expands to allow for the issuance of cultivation and manufacturing licenses. **Until lawmakers, regulators, and others are ready for program expansion wholesale can bridge this gap and provide regulated, tested, taxed products to patients across the State.**

All sales and purchases of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products would fall under the same regulations we operate under, and be subject to the data collection and reporting requirements of the computer software tracking system outlined in section 329D-6(j). We support the ability of the selling dispensary to transport cannabis or manufactured cannabis products to another county or another island, for the limited purpose of completing its sale to the purchasing dispensary. The bill also proposes to authorize intrastate transport for this purpose. Please refer to 14 CFR 91.19(b) below to support this provision in this bill.



If there remain issues with the legality of inter-county and intrastate transport, we respectfully request the Committee consider revising the bill to amend language in 329D-2(c) that currently restricts licensees to produce, manufacture, and dispense cannabis and manufactured cannabis products “only in” the county for which the license was granted. Please consider the following:

329D-2 Medical cannabis dispensaries; authorized; licensure.

(c) Each medical cannabis dispensary license shall allow production, manufacture, and dispensing of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products ~~only in~~ any the county irrespective of ~~for~~ which county the license is granted.

The bill currently has a limit on transport from a dispensary to a dispensary of 4,000 grams of product. **4,000 grams for manufactured products is reasonable, however, 4,000 grams of cannabis flower would not be enough to satisfy flower demand for some dispensaries for a day.** The current law allows patients to receive 4 oz (113 grams) every 15 days for a total of 8 oz (226 grams) per 30 days. 4,000 grams of flower would essentially satisfy the demand of only 17 patients equivalent to less than 1% of any dispensary’s patient base. **We would respectfully request that the Committee increase this to 45,560 grams (1600 ounces or 100 lbs).** A 100 lb limit would allow dispensaries to ensure that in the case of crop failure or other foreseeable circumstance that devastates or eliminates an entire cannabis crop for a dispensary, they are still able to serve a total of 200 patients for 30 days.

CAREGIVER

The caregiver program ensures that the most vulnerable patients have a trusted individual to assist them if necessary. Whether it be to purchase on their behalf at the dispensaries, or designated to grow for those they care for, caregivers are an important part of the industry and the community.

There are many reasons why a patient would designate a caregiver to grow for them. Big Island Grown believes this should remain an option for patients. The medical cannabis industry in Hawaii is simply not mature enough to provide this access to all patients.

Over the past few weeks, the amount of feedback that we have received from patients has made it clear that many of them (often the patients who need this medicine the most) are not physically capable of coming in to the dispensary, growing, or processing cannabis themselves. Some of these patients are on fixed incomes, and cannot afford to only buy medicine from a dispensary. We believe it would be detrimental to the most vulnerable members of our patient community to force patients to only purchase cannabis from a dispensary or grow it themselves.

Big Island Grown is in support of keeping the total number of qualifying patient grows to 5 per TMK parcel or CPR unit to accommodate multigenerational patient homes.

SEEDS & CLONES

Big Island Grown respects a patient’s right to grow for themselves, or designate a caregiver to grow on their behalf.

Please reconsider adding a seed and clones provision back to this bill. Offering seeds and clones through the dispensary system would benefit patients that will ultimately choose to grow for themselves for a number of reasons including geographical distance, financial, or cultural. We seek the



ability to provide safe and proven genetics to this group of 329 cardholders by dispensing proven phenotyped clones that are clean and tested. This enables a patient to obtain strains with the medicinal properties for which they are seeking while minimizing the risk of unwanted pests and pathogens, such as powdery mildew, from being introduced into a home grow environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jaclyn L. Moore, Pharm.D., CEO Big Island Grown Dispensaries



To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair HTH
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair CPN
Members of the Joint Health and Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

Fr: Casey Rothstein, President COO, Green Aloha Ltd.

**Re: Testimony In Support of House Bill (HB) 477, House Draft (HD) 2,
Proposed Amendments**

RELATING TO CANNABIS

Authorizes the department of health to allow a licensed dispensary to purchase up to three thousand grams of medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products from another licensed dispensary to ensure ongoing qualifying patient access. Increases the allowable number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per dispensary license. Places certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after 12/31/21. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after 12/31/21. Permits inspections of registered grow sites by department of health or law enforcement to verify compliance with cannabis plant limits for cultivation by qualifying patients. Limits dispensary-to-dispensary sales to those located on the same island, as long as federal law prohibits the transportation of medical cannabis over a body of water.

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

Green Aloha is one of the 8 State Licensed Medical Cannabis operations. Our company currently employs 18 Kauai residents. We submit testimony today in support of HB477. HB477 is an important bill for the legal cannabis industry in order to enhance the medical cannabis dispensary program and legal infrastructure with additional facilities to strengthen patient access to clean, tested, safe cannabis medicine through regulated channels.

The founding goal of the Dispensary Program was to provide safe tested cannabis medicine to as many patients in Hawaii as possible. Hawaii was one of the leaders in the Nation in acknowledging that Cannabis is real legitimate medicine over 20 yrs ago. The Dispensary program was a big step forward treating it like real medicine by setting strict safety standards and providing patients with safe access points, staffed by people with the training and knowledge to help guide patients. However, the Dispensary program has struggled to achieve



this goal as it is still being dwarfed by the black and gray market that is flourishing in Hawaii. The black market is completely unregulated, untaxed, has no licensing fees or safe testing requirements and thus has a significant competitive advantage in pricing over the Dispensary Program.

According to information from New Frontier Data and monthly MedCan Dispensary Sales Data, the dispensaries provided only **5.2%** of the total cannabis consumed in Hawaii in 2020. Another data platform, BDSA Analytics, estimated the illicit market in Hawaii to be approximately 10x the size of the legal medical market. All data collected on this issue shows the illicit market providing 10-20x the cannabis supply than the amount provided within the legal cannabis framework. Green Aloha believes that the provisions in this bill provide a reasonable increase to the existing footprint which enhances our ability to provide clean, tested, safe, high quality, regulated (and taxed) cannabis medicine to our island community at a price that can compete with the black market.

PRODUCTION

One size does not fit all. County restrictions and ordinances, on Kauai for example, make it extremely difficult to get the permits needed to build a facility large enough to accommodate the maximum allowable plant count of 5,000. Our Production Center #1 can only hold approximately 2500 plants and due to current regulations that limit a Production Center to one physical building, our small processing and manufacturing building located less than 10 ft from the entrance to our Production Center #1 was determined by the Department of Health to count as our Production Center #2. Therefore, we have reached the maximum number of production centers and are not able to produce enough product to open the second Dispensary location that we currently have under lease. The combination of these creates a situation where our license is not able to satisfy the demand needed to reach our maximum number of retail locations, with the 2 production facilities operational. Additional Production Centers or a rule change to allow multiple buildings within one secured property, to count as one Production Center. This combined with an increased plant count would allow us the flexibility to more quickly build the necessary infrastructure to increase production and meet the demand needed to expand patient access and open additional dispensary locations. An increased plant count would allow us to achieve economies of scale to lower prices and compete with the unregulated black and gray markets.

WHOLESALE

The ability to wholesale amongst licenses would be a primary building block for a thriving medical program allowing it to be stimulated and fed by a diverse pipeline of products available to patients across the State. Allowing wholesale between licensees would promote a diversity of



products and enable patients in every County to access specialized formulations that may not otherwise be available as different licensees have specialized in different products across the current medical program. This is an important component that is needed to overcome the restrictions that are inherent in a vertical program where each licensee is currently required to grow, process, manufacture, package, transport, and dispense cannabis and manufactured products that are 100% made in house only. This essentially requires a licensee to be a jack of all trades in cultivation, and in product development formulations as well as manufacturing, AND have the physical infrastructure and specialized equipment needed to produce the wide array of cannabis medical products. The ability to purchase wholesale products from other licenses would allow Green Aloha on Kauai to immediately open more stores, adding good paying jobs to the community. It will expand patient access to a wider variety of products, bringing more patients into the MedCann program and away from the unregulated, untested, untaxed and unsafe, illicit black market. Wholesale would allow us to make available products made by other licensees who have the resources to make the types of cannabis medicine that we can not yet provide to our patients. All sales and purchases of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products would fall under the same regulations we operate under, and be subject to the data collection and reporting requirements of the computer software tracking system outlined in section 329D-6(j). The bill, as reflected in current language above, has a limit on transport from a dispensary to a dispensary of 4,000 grams (reduced to 3,000 grams in HD1) of product. 4,000 grams for manufactured products is reasonable, however, 4,000 grams of cannabis would not be enough to satisfy flower demand for some dispensaries for a day. The current law allows patients to receive 4 oz (113 grams) every 15 days for a total of 8 oz (226 grams) per 30 days. 4,000 grams of flower would essentially satisfy the demand of only 17 patients equivalent to less than 1% of any dispensary's patient base. We would respectfully request that the Committee increase this to 45,560 grams (1600 ounces or 100 lbs). A 100lb limit would allow dispensaries to ensure that in the case of crop failure or other foreseeable circumstance that devastates or eliminates an entire cannabis crop for a dispensary, they are still able to serve a total of 200 patients for 30 days.

RETAIL

As explained above, on Kauai, it is the limitations on production that has held back our ability to open the full amount of retail locations. We believe that with expanded production centers and the ability to buy wholesale from another license, we would quickly be able to open the maximum number of 3 dispensaries allowed under the current laws and regulations. When these locations are open, we would still only be able to service a small amount of the geographic communities on Kauai. It should be noted that Kauai is almost as physically large as Oahu yet it only has $\frac{1}{3}$ the allowed dispensary locations. We believe that an increase of the number of Dispensaries permitted under the license to 5 locations would allow us to service all the communities of Kauai. Enabling more retail locations per current licensee enables a quicker



rollout and opening of additional retail locations increasing legal access for patients. The increase in demand would require an increased plant count and/or additional production facility per licensee. We support the provision in this bill that would allow for an increase in production facilities as stated above.

CAREGIVERS' GROW SUNSET

We believe in the patient's right to grow their own medicine and take on the responsibilities that come with providing for yourself. This is an important option for patients and their doctors to have. We are concerned with reducing the "Card Count" on a residence from 5 down to 2 due to the fact that in the 2020 Census, Kauai County had the highest percentage of multi-generational households of any county in the United States. That combined with the economic collapse from Covid has led to a great many people having to seek out roommates or to share accommodations in order to pay the mortgage or rent. We are concerned that a household of 5 patients would only be allowed to grow for 2 of those residents and may not be able to produce enough of their own medicine. Green Aloha believes that 5 Cards is a reasonable amount for residents of a property to grow their own medicine.

With that said, there is an ongoing issue of some caregivers growing cannabis on behalf of hundreds of patients, essentially becoming large production centers, and in some occasions becoming bigger production centers than some licensees. They have built these businesses without having to go through the scrutiny of Hawaii's strict application process and they operate outside of the current medical cannabis program framework, producing products that avoid laboratory testing for safety and are not tracked with the seed to sale tracking system. They don't pay state GET and are not subject to employment rules as they are completely unregulated and operating in the shadows, while often presenting an image of being a professional medical cannabis provider to their patients. They do this all while using the 329 program as legal cover. This is a serious **patient safety** concern. If you are trusting someone else to provide your medicine, be it a caretaker or a dispensary you should be able to be certain that it is safe. We know how difficult it is to grow clean safe cannabis medicine in Hawaii because of the strict testing of the dispensary program. While some of these operations do fill an area of need for patients they operate on uneven ground because they are not subject to the same standards put in place for the medical cannabis program.

Some of these operations have expressed desire to have a pathway to compliance to enter the legal medical cannabis program which Green Aloha supports. For example, the idea of adding additional cultivation licenses was in a separate bill this year, SB1372 SD1. Green Aloha supports moving towards a horizontal program but as stated in testimony to that bill, we would prefer additional licenses be "attainable" for the local people of Hawai'i. Current licensee holders are very aware of the immense burden that comes with our vertically integrated program and



additional vertical licenses in the current framework would not be setting our local people who would apply for these new licenses up for success. Attainable cannabis cultivation licenses would be a great addition to the medical cannabis industry and we look forward to bringing seeing this industry grow.

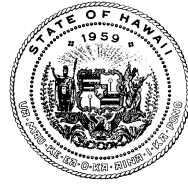
We understand that this industry can be controversial and the conversation around cannabis in Hawaii is one that holds varying different opinions. But if there is one thing everyone can agree on with this topic it is: the cannabis illicit market in Hawaii is thriving in every community. Unregulated, untaxed, and untested products are being sold. What we are proposing and asking here today, is a reasonable expansion of the current LEGAL program that is providing the highest standard of quality and clean medicine to registered medical patients. The State of Hawaii was a leader in the entire nation agreeing 20 years ago that cannabis has very real and tangible medicinal purposes. They solidified this by implementing our law in the year 2000 allowing medical cannabis in our state. We are now here in 2021 still trying to find ways to ensure that the ones who need this medicine receive the best medicine they can get in our state.

It is incumbent on the decision makers of our state to address the large illicit market which dominates the cannabis landscape and expand the accessibility to the legal industry in which the state has spent a lot of resources ensuring it produces the highest quality of medicine. Not making progress in this area strengthens Hawaii's illicit market and essentially signals that decision makers will continue to turn their head and ignore the fact that an illegal underground market continues to flourish. We believe that the provisions in this bill would help the dispensary program build out the necessary infrastructure to provide the safe access footprint needed to turn patients away from the illicit black market and bring them into the safe, regulated, tested and taxed Medical Cannabis system. The founding goal of the Dispensary Program was to provide safe tested cannabis medicine to as many patients in Hawaii as possible. The provisions in this bill are needed to allow us to meet this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Warmest Aloha,

Casey Rothstein, President, Chief Operating Officer, Green Aloha Ltd.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 477 H.D.2
RELATING TO CANNABIS

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: Friday, March 19, 2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will require additional resources and may impact the
2 priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's
3 appropriations and personnel priorities. Permitting licensees to purchase cannabis and
4 manufactured cannabis products from each other and increasing the number of licensed facilities
5 will require a minimum of two (2) additional Surveyors and one (1) additional Office Assistant,
6 and supplemental mileage and interisland travel at an estimated cost of \$295,000, to maintain
7 adequate regulatory oversight to ensure patient, product, and public safety.
- 8 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent of H.B. 477
9 H.D.2 to improve patient access, patient safety, and product safety by: (1) authorizing DOH to
10 allow licensed dispensary-to-dispensary sales of cannabis or manufactured cannabis products; (2)
11 increasing the allowable number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per license;
12 (3) placing limits on caregiver cultivation after December 31, 2021; (4) placing limits on patient
13 cultivation after December 31, 2021; (5) clarifying DOH authority to verify compliance or

1 request assistance with verifying compliance with chapter 329, HRS; (6) clarifying that
2 dispensary-to-dispensary sales transports may only occur between licensees on the same island
3 until such time that federal law allows for interisland transport of cannabis; and (7) clarifying
4 that transport of cannabis for laboratory testing to another county or island is permissible only if
5 no certified testing laboratory is located on that county or island. Additional personnel and
6 operational costs will be required to implement these measures. DOH provides the following

7 COMMENTS:

8 (1) **Allowing dispensary-to-dispensary sales of cannabis or manufactured cannabis**
9 **products will require additional resources to maintain adequate regulatory**
10 **oversight.** Although this request would support patient access in the event that a licensee
11 suffers an unexpected disruption to their supply chain, this provision moves the current
12 licensing scheme away from the vertical system that the legislature established in 2015 to
13 ensure the maintenance of strict controls over cannabis and manufactured cannabis
14 products intended for medical use. In addition, DOH will require additional resources to
15 monitor these additional transports. The licensees currently average about 10 transports a
16 week between their production centers and retail locations. To ensure accountability for
17 all cannabis and manufactured cannabis products transported, DOH Surveyors: (1)
18 review transport manifests documenting inventory type and quantity transported,
19 transport personnel, vehicle used, route taken, and estimated duration, (2) review video
20 surveillance of licensee packing, loading, unloading, and unpacking of the transport
21 containers; and (3) conduct investigations anytime an inventory discrepancy is identified.
22 DOH will require additional Surveyor positions for this increased regulatory activity.

1 DOH appreciates the legislature's recognition of product and patient safety concerns by
2 the proposed amendment to section 329D-9(b).

3 (2) **Increasing the allowable number of production centers and retail dispensing**
4 **locations per licensee is not needed at this time and will require additional resources**
5 **to maintain adequate regulatory oversight.** Only three (3) of the eight (8) licensees
6 have used their current allotment of production centers or retail dispensing locations.
7 Also, only an average of 36% of registered patients made purchases from dispensaries in
8 2020. To ensure ongoing patient access, the legislature authorized DOH to issue
9 additional licenses. Should additional patient access be needed, DOH will solicit for
10 additional licensees. Additional licensees would create a more competitive market which
11 could help to lower product costs. In either case, DOH will require additional Surveyor
12 positions and operational funds to provide adequate regulatory oversight of additional
13 licensees or facilities. DOH inspects each licensed facility at least once every eight (8)
14 weeks. The existing two (2) Surveyor positions are already inadequate for the now 28
15 facilities with an additional 3 planned for this year.

16 (3) **Limitations on caregiver cultivation comports with Patient Registry data.** DOH
17 SUPPORTS the proposed amendment to section 329-130(a) to limit caregiver cultivation
18 after December 31, 2021. According to patient registry data as of January 31, 2021,
19 94.4% of registered patients have expressed their intent to cultivate cannabis for and by
20 themselves. Therefore, restricting caregivers' authorization to grow cannabis on islands
21 with dispensaries will impact only 5.6 % of registered patients. Caregivers of qualifying
22 patients who are minors or an adult lacking legal capacity, as well as caregivers of

1 qualifying patients on Molokai and Lanai will maintain their ability to cultivate for
2 patients. DOH recognizes that barriers to access regulated and tested cannabis and
3 manufactured cannabis products via licensed dispensaries exist and home cultivation will
4 remain an option for patients.

5 (4) **Limitations on patient and caregiver cultivation will address concerns related to**
6 **large, unregulated cannabis cultivation sites under the guise of home cultivation.**

7 DOH SUPPORTS the proposed amendment to section 329-130(a) to limit the number of
8 patients and caregivers that can register to a single cultivation site. This will allow no
9 more than twenty (20) plants to be grown at a single site and will address existing large,
10 unregulated cultivation sites. There are currently 98 sites that are registered to between
11 5-30 patients which could maintain 50-300 plants and at least one site registered to 409
12 patients, a potential of 4,090 plants. According to patient registry data as of January 31,
13 2021, this limitation will impact only about 12% of registered patients. DOH has
14 received ongoing and numerous complaints from patients, medical providers, and the
15 public regarding uncontrolled cultivations under the guise of home cultivation. These
16 include: patients reporting that they felt coerced into signing their “growing rights” over
17 to collectives; medical providers reporting that “growers” were soliciting patients outside
18 their office offering to reimburse patients for the cost of their medical use certification in
19 exchange for their “growing rights;” patients without designated caregivers being asked
20 to provide “growers” with their driver’s license; property management companies asking
21 DOH to stop authorizing certain grow sites for cultivation of cannabis in contravention to
22 lease agreements; noxious smells of cannabis plants; the potential for criminal activity

1 that could jeopardize the medical cannabis industry as a whole; and the loss of tax
2 revenue from illegal operations (the licensed medical cannabis industry generated
3 \$2,023,138 in tax revenue in 2020).

4 (5) **Clarification of DOH authority to verify compliance or request assistance with**
5 **verifying compliance with registered grow sites requirements.** DOH SUPPORTS the
6 proposed amendment to section 329-130(a) to explicitly state that DOH, or law
7 enforcement upon request by DOH, may inspect registered grow sites. Although existing
8 authority was present, this amendment will minimize any confusion regarding the
9 authority to enforce compliance moving forward.

10 (6) **Clarification that dispensary-to-dispensary sales transports are limited to licensees**
11 **on the same island at this time.** DOH SUPPORTS the proposed amendments to section
12 329-122(f) to clarify that until such time as federal law permits interisland transport of
13 cannabis and manufactured cannabis products, any transport for the purpose of
14 dispensary-to-dispensary sales is limited to licensees located on the same island.

15 (7) **Clarification that interisland transport related to laboratory testing is permissible**
16 **only if no certified testing laboratory is located on the same island as the dispensary**
17 **whose product is being tested.** DOH SUPPORTS the proposed amendment to 329D-
18 6(m) to clarify that interisland transport of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products
19 for the purpose of mandatory laboratory testing is permitted only if no certified
20 laboratory is located in the county or on the island where the dispensary is located.

21 **Offered Amendments and Alternate Language:**

1 To support DOH need for additional resources to maintain regulatory oversight over the licensed
2 dispensaries, **DOH requests the following amendments to H.B. 477 H.D.2:**

3 **Section 329D-4 Medical cannabis dispensaries; license application procedure and**
4 **certification; fees.**

5 (c) A nonrefundable application fee [~~of \$5,000~~] for each license application shall be
6 submitted to the department by certified or cashier's check. Within seven days of
7 approval, a dispensary license fee [~~of \$75,000~~] for each license shall be submitted to the
8 department by certified of cashier's check or the department shall issue a license to the
9 next qualified applicant.

10 (n) A dispensary license may be renewed annually by payment of an annual renewal fee
11 [~~of \$50,000~~] and subject to verification by the department through an unannounced
12 inspection that the individual licensee and entity licensee continue to meet all licensing
13 requirements from the date the initial licenses were issued.

14 **Section 329D-7 Medical cannabis dispensaries rules.** The department shall establish
15 standards with respect to:

16 (2) A fee structure for the submission of applications, initial licensure, and renewals of
17 licenses to dispensaries; [~~provided that the department shall consider the market~~
18 ~~conditions in each county in determining the license renewal fee amounts~~] a fee structure
19 for the submission of applications for each additional production center and each
20 additional retail dispensing location; provided that the department shall consider the
21 market conditions in each county in determining the license renewal fee amounts;

1 To clarify that administrative inspections include onsite inspections, **DOH requests the**
2 **following alternate language for the proposed amendment of 329-130(a) in Section 3, page**
3 **6, lines 13-18:**

4 (2) By cultivating cannabis in an amount that does not exceed an adequate supply for the
5 qualifying patient, pursuant to section 329-122; provided that each location used to cultivate
6 cannabis shall be used by no more than ~~five~~ two qualifying patients; and provided further
7 that the department, or law enforcement upon the request of the department, may make
8 inspections, including onsite inspections for criminal or administrative purposes, of
9 registered grow sites to verify compliance with the requirements of this chapter pursuant to
10 authority under this chapter.

11 Should the committee decide to move forward with allowing dispensary-to-dispensary sales,
12 **DOH requests the following amendments to H.B. 477 H.D.2:**

13 Strike the unnecessary proposed amendment to **section 329D-6(n) in Section 6, page 18,**
14 **lines 3-4**, referring to dispensary-to-dispensary and maintain the original language:

15 “A dispensary shall be prohibited from off-premises delivery of cannabis or
16 manufactured cannabis products to a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, qualifying
17 out-of-state patient, or caregiver of a qualifying out-of-state patient.

18 Amend **section 329D-7 Medical cannabis dispensaries rules:**

19 The department shall establish standards with respect to:

20 (2) A fee structure for the submission of applications, initial license, and renewals of
21 licenses to dispensaries; ~~[provided that the department shall consider the market~~
22 ~~conditions in each county in determining the license renewal fee amounts]~~ a fee structure

1 for the submission of applications for each additional production center and each
2 additional retail dispensing location; a fee structure for dispensary-to-dispensary sales;
3 provided that the department shall consider the market conditions in each county in
4 determining the license renewal fee amounts;

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:56:21 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Pirl	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:13:08 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Yuresko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS
By Your Name

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

My Husband and I invested all of our savings into the next three years hoping to come out ahead and help raise our new family. On this very day we are still in the negative because this is my Husbands new business (8 months) and this next month we would finally begin to pay on bills to return into the positive. If we where only allowed to continue through December 2021 instead of 2023 our whole savings investment will be in vane. We spent years preparing and finding the right location and have done everything leagal and by the books. We ask at this time that you also Oppose HB 477 for the greater good of us the small family's trying to make a new start and for the other

family's who have invested many years of care and hard work to help those people who are card holders that need affordable medical medicine. Especially when some of these card holders do not have the means or availability to care for their own gardens. My Husband is amazing at helping those individuals with a better quality of life.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your time & consideration. I look forward to hearing you soon.

Sincerely, Jamie L Yuresko (Norman) ABC, LLC



Akamai Cannabis Clinic
3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO CANNABIS

By
Clifton Otto, MD

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Friday, March 19, 2021; 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to provide COMMENTS on this measure.

For the past twenty-one years designated caregivers have been able to assist medical cannabis patients with producing their own cannabis medicine and there have been no limits on the number of patients who can share the same grow site location.

Now suddenly the department wants to eliminate the caregiver function altogether and limit the number of patients who can share the same grow site to an unrealistic number that would unlawfully restrict the ability of a household with more than two registered patients to grow an adequate supply of cannabis medicine for those family members.

These larger shared grow sites that the department is so concerned about did not just pop up overnight. They have been around for years and are satisfying an unmet need that cannot be filled by the dispensaries. This is because regularly priced dispensary products are too expensive for most patients, product selection changes too often to allow for consistent treatment, and there is no state certification for organic dispensary cannabis.

Testimony on HB477 HD2
March 19, 2021
Page 2

We certainly don't want patient grow sites to become so large that they cannot be properly regulated. However, I believe that the current upset over patient grow sites is due to the lack of cannabis expertise within the Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation (OMCCR). This deficiency can be easily fixed with the addition of a cannabinoid medicine specialist to the program.

The underlying reason why we are seeing large patient grow sites is because the structure of our medical cannabis dispensary program is inherently flawed. A vertically integrated system does not work for Hawaii, and the dispensaries know this, which is why they are recommending cannabis wholesaling and a new cultivation program. The Hawaii Dispensary Task Force recommended a horizontally integrated system to the Legislature. However, this recommendation was abandoned behind closed doors, reportedly under pressure from local law enforcement.

I believe that it is time to revisit this issue, and instead of making rash decisions about caregivers and patient grow sites, this bill can be used as a vehicle to create a new medical cannabis task force that can re-evaluate the problems currently facing our program and come up with solutions that could be reported back to the Legislature before the next Session.

By the way, the transport of cannabis between islands over bodies of water is not prohibited by federal law. Please see the interisland sample transport provision under state law ([329-122, HRS](#)), and the federal aviation regulation ([14 CFR 91.19](#)) that exempts the carriage of cannabis aboard aircraft from federal prohibition if authorized under state law. Now we just need the state agencies that regulate interisland transport to recognize this legal pathway, and a state authorization for the interisland transport of larger amounts of cannabis for dispensary wholesaling.

And, of course, what we really need to do is end this conflict between the state authorized use of cannabis in Hawaii and the federal regulation of marijuana. A federal administrative rule ([21 CFR 1308.11](#)) does not pre-empt an authority reserved to the states by the U.S. Constitution to decide how controlled substances are used within the state. For the sake of our patients and the future of our medical cannabis program, I sincerely hope that the Legislature can find a way to resolve this conflict.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these suggestions.

Aloha.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:00:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a caregiver of a cannabis patient since 2013, I strongly oppose removing caregiver/parent rights. This bill puts more power in the hands of dispensaries and it lessens the rights of cannabis patients in Hawaii. Since the passage of Act 241, caregivers of cannabis patients have acted responsibly. They have not done anything to warrant the removal of their rights. This clause forces patients into dispensaries vs allowing patients to grow their own medicine.

Aloha, Jari Sugano

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:14:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jade mcgaff, md	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please OPPOSE HB477.

As a doctor, I have seen many patients lower their anxiety, stop the insomnia, smoothe their PTSD, and control their pain with Medicinal Cannabis.I have patients who are so disabled, that they cannot possibly cultivate their own plants. Please do not bloick the caregiver option. It is a small number of clients in my practice, but these patients are greatly benefitted by having a caregiver tend to their plants. The dispensaries are expensive and beyond the reach of many clients, especially during the current hardships.

Medicinal Cannabis is certainly preferred to other destructive chemicals, from alcohol to narcotics. Please oppose HB 477. Help our Ohana control their own health.

Gratitude,

Jade McGaff, MD

Kamuela, Hawaii

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:37:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Majesty Keopualani Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:00:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly M Cockett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

SUPPORT HB 477

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

March 19, 2021

Aloha Honorable Chairs Keohokalole and Baker:

Would like to thank Representative Ryan Yamane for introducing this measure. Among other regulatory changes, HB 477 prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after December 31, 2021. This legislation creates inconveniences for medical cannabis patients, which I am one.

In a perfect world, we should oppose such restrictions. However our world is not perfect and I ask you to support HB 477. Help rid our island of criminals.

The male highlighted in yellow is David Roger. Local medial featured him along with nine other criminals about a year ago. I unfortunately met David in 2014. Believe he was in his late-30s. Boasted of being a life long drug dealer; claimed he was the "go to" guy in San Diego during high school. He's been a small time, petty thug all his adult life. Can get people any illicit substance they want -- anytime. This is the failure of the war on drugs!



David Roger: Career Criminal in California and the Island of Kaua'i. Source: StarAdvertiser

David supported his criminal lifestyle dealing cannabis on Kaua'i, because cannabis is wildly popular. Didn't need to work. He and partner, Cain Sergrief, grew cannabis in the mauka hills of Wainiha on the remote north shore. David would package one gram bundles of pakalolo in cellophane wrappers for distribution.

David gave his minions 10-20 packets, which they would sell for \$20 each to visitors or other locals. This provided David sufficient resources to finance other criminal activities. Minions held part-time jobs working restaurants, bussing tables or as cooks. When David had ample supply, they wouldn't show up to their day jobs.

Listened to many frustrated managers beg members of David's posse to come work. Far easier for them to walk, bike, drive around Kaua'i and make fast money selling pakalolo. Police didn't care and politicians have bigger concerns.

David was lead tenant in an apartment complex where I resided. He was on probation after nearly beating the baby momma of his 9-year-old son to death. They fled to mainland. David has serious anger management issues. He's an alcoholic and drug dependent. Tried to work with him initially. Found out he would lie and manipulate to get what he wanted. Dangerous guy!

His first act each morning was to down a couple beers and then light up a joint. He spent the day drinking beer and smoking weed. When stoned, drunk and intoxicated, he would climb in his massive 4X4 Dodge RAM truck and thunder down the highway toward Lihue.

Contacted County Councilor Gary Hooser. We didn't have much success getting Prosecuting Attorney Justin Kollar to engage. More pressing matters, OPA chief said. Met with KPD undercover detective, Mike Ni'i. Wasn't interested in David's pakalolo business. "Does he traffic meth?" Ni'i asked. I didn't know. "How about major theft?" These activities interested KPD, not drug thugs dealing marijuana. Not even DWI concerned him.

There was a steady supply of young, underage girls who stopped by -- many spent considerable time alone with David in his bedroom. Appeared he traded drugs for sexual favors. Was also a stream of young males who dropped by all hours day and night. They brought beer, food, parts for a boat he capsized while drunk that he and Sergrief were repairing, as well as other items David desired. He bartered weed for goods.

Pakalolo is better than cash in the islands. *Garanz ballbearanz* get anything one needs -- because government continues cannabis as an illegal good. This is the primary reason we advocate for cannabis legalization. Both federal and Hawai'i policy finance and support a criminal network.

As a pro athlete, I played in Uruguay. They had a draconian anti-drug policy when I was there. Anyone caught using or dealing wasn't arrested. Too much paperwork. Police simply severely beat the offended in the middle of the street with night sticks for people to watch. Brutal behavior. Uruguay was the first nation in the world to legalize cannabis. Their goal was to rid their nation of drug criminals.

In June 2012, the Uruguayan government, under President Mujica, announced plans to legalize state-fix sales of cannabis in order to fight drug-related crimes and health issues. Nobel prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa praised the decision as "courageous."
Uruguay National Cannabis Policy

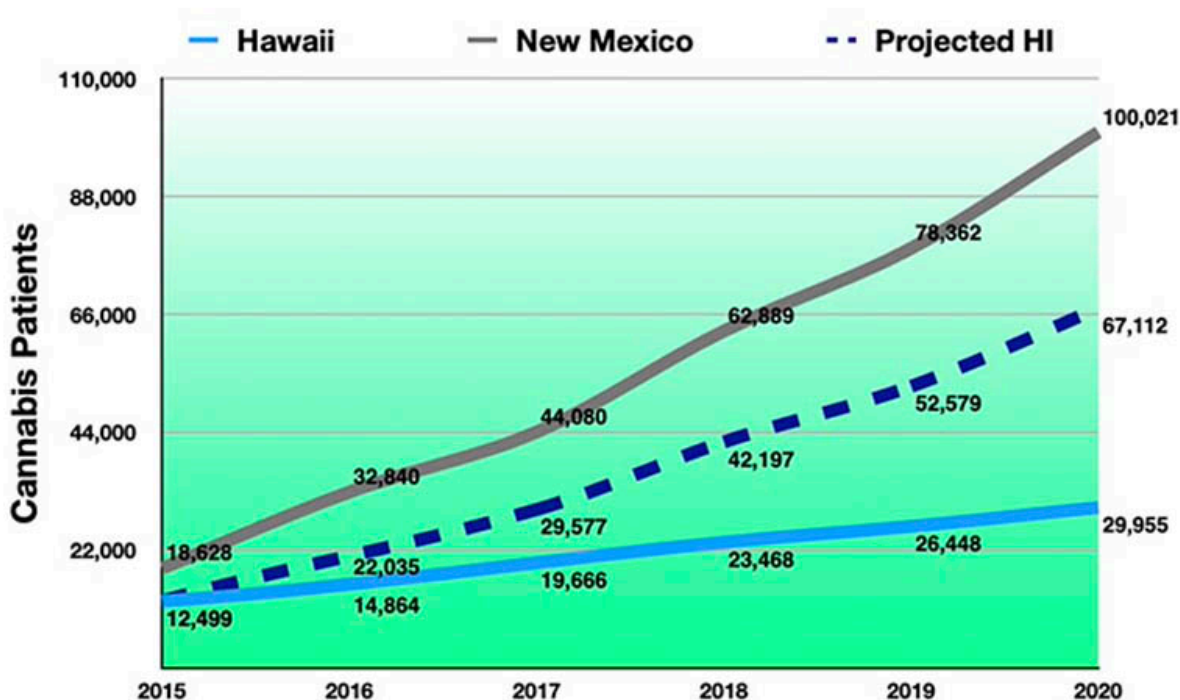
The government initially controlled entire production and determined price, quality, and maximum production volume. They proposed to sell cannabis around \$1/gram, under actual production costs, specifically to rid their small nation of mafia elements. Comparatively a gram of cannabis runs about \$20 from a legal dispensary in Hawai'i or around \$10/gram on mainland.

Californication of Hawai'i

Closing illegal weed shops is a challenge for law enforcement and headache for citizens in California. The process takes months and even when closed, illegal dispensaries often pop up again nearby or even in the same building repeatedly. Ending illegal distribution of pakalolo in Hawai'i will face similar challenges. Weather, rich soil and robust sunshine here permits year around growth of plants. Easy peasy!

In an analysis completed at the end of 2020 comparing Hawai'i medical cannabis patients to those in New Mexico, we see the number of patients lower than expected in Hawai'i. Although similar to each other relative to population size in 2015, Hawai'i has fallen behind over the past five years.

Cannabis flower and edibles are nearly twice as expensive in Hawai'i compared to the Land of Enchantment. The DOH in the Aloha state charges annually for registration; New Mexico DOH has no fee. Annual provider visits are far less expensive in New Mexico. Led by conservative Hawaiian Electric CEO & President Constance Hee Lau, employers in Hawai'i are also medical cannabis unfriendly.



New Mexico vs. Hawai'i Medical Cannabis Programs. Source: InfoImagination

The result is about half the number of expected patients have enrolled in Hawai'i. The rest medicate illegally. Dispensaries and state coffers suffer due to the restrictive political climate in Hawai'i.

Miriam Raftery, East County Magazine, reported licensed dispensaries in California are subject to inspections, state and local regulations, while illegal dispensaries may sell marijuana contaminated and dangerous to customers. Some illicit dispensaries also sell other drugs, such as cocaine and meth.¹

Illegal operators may sell to minors. Or may create hazards to neighbors by tapping illegally into electricity, overloading circuits, and if manufacturing hash oil extracted from marijuana, utilize drums filled with flammable chemicals that can and have exploded, causing fires locally.

This is how illegal growers operate in our islands. Unregulated and under the radar, they sell anything and everything to anyone and just about everyone. The federal government created a policy nightmare criminalizing cannabis in 1970. Nobody knows exactly how to unwind from this tangled criminal justice mess.

I've been a medical cannabis patient for over ten years. Suffered many injuries, surgeries and severe chronic pain. As a resident of Kaua'i prior to Hawai'i legislators authorizing official dispensaries, patients like me purchased our medication from street dealers who hover around beaches and pavilions. Although some grew plants locally, most imported products from California.



We received no information about product quality, THC or CBD content levels, or additional features that are useful to patients. For example, this is a sophisticated product description from one of the dispensaries I use when traveling mainland. This level of product description is unavailable in the nascent dispensary system in the islands.

Boy Scout Cookies is a highly euphoric and soothing hybrid strain that is effective for muscle tension and spasms. It is also highly beneficial for digestive support. The terpene content provides help with inflammation and pain control while relaxing the body. It is great for overall comfort without stimulating the appetite. Primary Terpenes: 1) B-Caryophyllene. Aroma: pepper, spicy, woody, cloves. Symptom relief: GI symptoms,

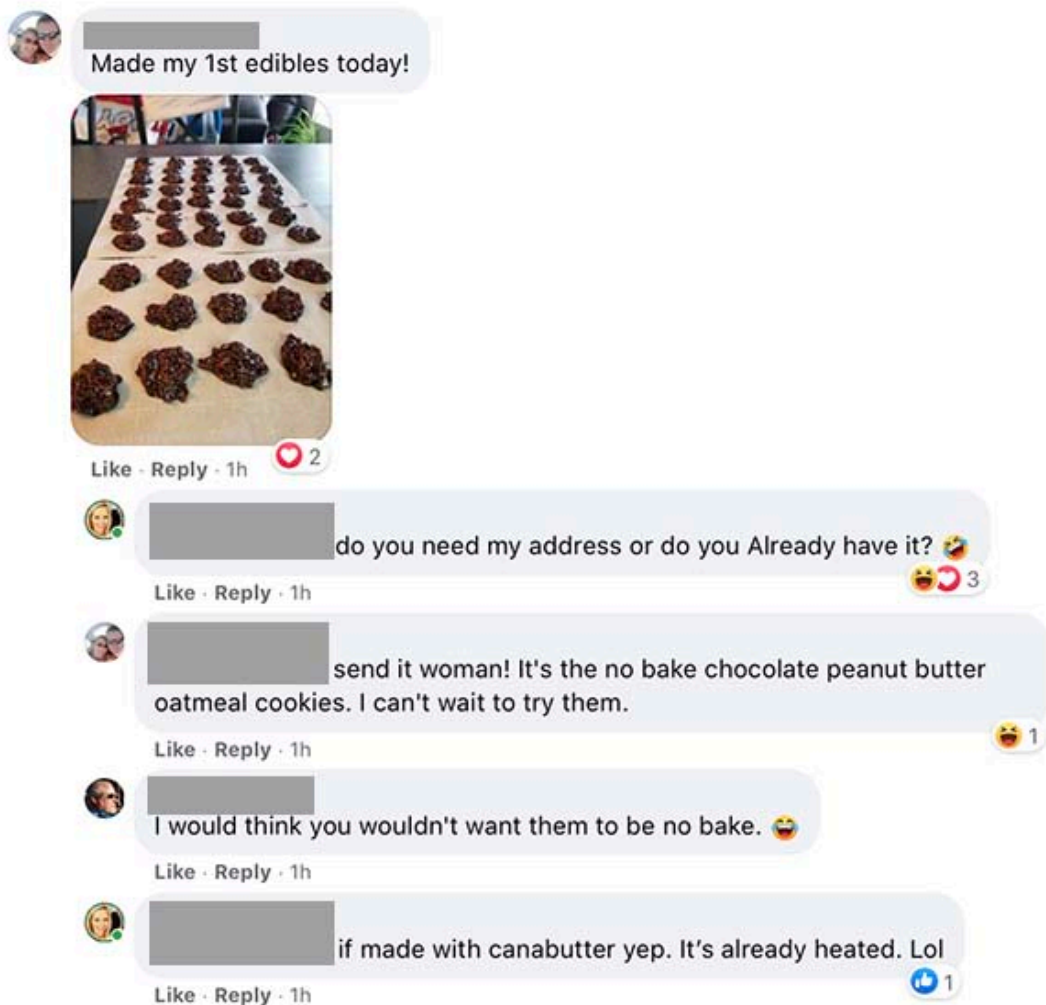
¹ <https://www.eastcountymagazine.org/why-it-so-hard-shut-down-illegal-pot-shops>

inflammation, muscle spasms, pain. 2) Humulene. Aroma: earthy, herbal, citrus, tropical. Symptom relief: inflammation, overactive appetite (appetite suppressant), pain.²

I have been working to convince state Senator Roz Baker to authorize more products for patients. She's a darling, huggable 75-year-old grandma who has been scared by government warnings all her life. She continues to believe national and state "anti-drug" policies are effective. The war has been ongoing for over 50 years. We have more drugs than ever. How do you define success?

I grew up in a Mormon community. We had few tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs concerns. Government didn't accomplish this for us. Strong family structure, concerned parents and teachers, and a supportive church and community kept youngsters far from temptation. For those on O'ahu, visit PCC and BYU-H. There's no substance abuse crisis in their 'ohana.

My good friend, Senator Baker, champions tight restrictions on edible products. She's concerned keiki might get into the supply of their parents. Here's a conversation between island locals on social media. First female announced, "Made my 1st edibles today!" What's the THC content? Are there contaminants? I consider these visually-appealing and readily-accessible to youngsters.



² <https://verdesabq.amercommerce.com/flowers.aspx>

Legal dispensary products are tested; come in sealed and discreet, child-proof packaging. We can better ensure safety for patients and protect our youngsters in a regulated market. Criminals sell to anyone, while a reputable business has much to lose. Let's work together to rid Hawai'i of undesirable elements. Current policies finance a criminal network that traffics not only in marijuana, but more dangerous substances as well as human beings and stolen goods.

It's time to Get Smart About Cannabis. Please support HB 477 as amended.

Thank you for your time,

\s\ Scott Goold \s\
Scott Goold
1778 Ala Moana Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96815

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:30:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tai Cheng	Testifying for Aloha Green Holdings Inc.	Comments	No

Comments:

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

Members of the House Finance Committee

Fr: Aloha Green Holdings Inc.

Re: Testimony **In Support of House Bill (HB) 477, House Draft (HD) 2** with Comments

RELATING TO CANNABIS

Authorizes the department of health to allow a licensed dispensary to purchase up to three thousand grams of medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products from another licensed dispensary to ensure ongoing qualifying patient access. Increases the allowable number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per dispensary license. Places certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after 12/31/21. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after 12/31/21. Permits inspections of registered grow sites by department of health or law enforcement to verify compliance with cannabis plant limits for cultivation by qualifying patients. Limits dispensary-to-dispensary sales to those located on the same island, as long as federal law prohibits the transportation of medical cannabis over a body of water.

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Green Apothecary supports HB477 with COMMENTS.

"Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater."

We support the patient's right to grow cannabis.

It is unfair to target legitimate caregivers who sincerely assist patients with cultivation. **But there is a loophole and problem with the caregiver program when "caregivers" solicit and prey on 329 card patients waiting at physician offices for their caregiver or home address designation by offering to pay for their annual physician visit fee and State 329 card registration fee in order to "stack" 10+ cards (100+ plants) on one TMK site.** There are reports of physicians advising patients their visit is free if they designate a grow site sight unseen as the physician's fees are paid by these "caregivers". Registered patients may never receive any cannabis from these designated "caregivers", but these growers make enough money to pay registration fees growing 10 plants per patient. There are even reports of caregiver cultivation sites with over 3000 plants, which is larger than any medical cannabis licensee grow. These sites were visited by Police, DEA, DOH, and NED but were not closed down due to the loophole in card stacking currently allowed in the caregiver program. The proposed caregiver sunset is a response to this problem.

If required, the House may consider language to limit the number of plants or 329 card cards at one grow site (2-5 cards) to uphold the tenets of public, product and patient safety instead of a blanket ban on caregiver growing. **We do concede that the proposed language to sunset the caregiver program is a simple solution and effectively closes the card stacking loophole without the added oversight and regulatory requirements with limiting the size of caregiver grow sites.**

Large unregulated grows pose a safety risk, product risk, criminal risk, fire risk, and environmental risk to all stakeholders when cannabis has yet to be decriminalized or legalized. Though not addressed in this bill, we also encourage the State of Hawaii to consider and support decriminalization and legalization of cannabis. Many of these problems would disappear with legalization.

As for additional retail locations - as of next week 17 out of 24 possible dispensaries will be operating (71% utilization). The program will quickly run out of room for additional retail and cultivation. The current medical cannabis program will not allow for more dispensaries on the Island of Hawaii, and only 3 more on Maui, 2 more on Oahu, and 2 more on Kauai. The decision on whether a licensee should may operate an additional retail or cultivation facility should be driven by the market but with the final decision from the DOH regulator. The medical cannabis program should be given a fair chance to compete with the prohibition market before adult-use is passed.

Mahalo for your time and care. Aloha.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:56:09 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rochelle Chambers	Testifying for Care Wailua	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can not say enough about how care wailua helps me with my ptsd. Their knowledge of the correct product has changed my life.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:38:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Brittain, LCSW	Testifying for Effective Change, LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Effective Change, LLC

Matthew Brittain, MA, LCSW, DCSW

Diplomate, Clinical Social Work

224 Kamehameha Ave. Suite 207 Hilo HI 96720

(808) 934-7566 Office \

www.effectivechangellc.com

Date: 03/17/2021

RE: MEDICINAL CANNABIS HB 477 H.D. 2

INTRODUCTION:

We (my office and a series of medical providers) have provided coordination of medical cannabis services to at least 12,000 patients since 2003. These services include the coordination of physician certification services with the needs of patients. During this time, we have become very familiar with the needs of our patient population. This testimony is a consistent representation of the vast majority of the cannabis patients in Hawaii, and on the Big Island, specifically.

As a Licensed Clinical Forensic social worker, my duty is to provide an unbiased assessment of patient needs, with the larger societal benefit as the end goal of the input that I provide. I believe that the viewpoints of all stakeholders should be given equal

weight, and examined from a perspective of improving social/agency/governmental functioning. This includes patient benefit, load reduction for law enforcement, public health improvements, public safety improvements, economic improvements, and improved political relations in association with Medical Use of Marijuana (329) industry topics. Note that I am a Forensic Examiner with specialization in mental health and substance abuse. I am firmly aware of the need for legal precedent in order to set a system of care that provides the best outcome for all concerned. This paper will address the major concerns of the majority stakeholders in the 329 industry.

THESIS:

This paper will spell out the realistic outcomes that can be expected if HB 477 becomes law in its entirety, with specific analysis as to the consequences of each specific component.

Related to item (1), which authorizes dispensaries to buy/sell 3,000 grams between each other: This item is not problematic, in our perspective, and should be included in a bill that addresses only dispensary operations.

Related to item (2), increasing the number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per dispensary license: This item is not problematic, in our perspective, and should be included in a bill that addresses only dispensary operations.

Related to item (3), prohibiting caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualified patients: This item is problematic from the perspective of law enforcement, access to medicine, medical discrimination, Capitalistic Exploitation, and regressive limitation upon the original intent of the 329 law. Specifically:

1. Law Enforcement Problems: Law enforcement agents would be placed in the position of arresting people who are currently lawful citizens, placing additional burden upon a police force that is already stretched thin and needs its resources for other purposes.
2. Access to Medicine: Many patients are home-bound or otherwise unable to physically get to a dispensary to purchase their medicine. If this part of the law were to pass, these patients would be denied their legal medicine. The result

would be that the patient would need to either do without, or solicit illegal sources in order to gain an adequate supply.

3. **Medical Discrimination:** No other medicine is restricted such that a caregiver is unable to buy or pick up Schedule II drugs from a pharmacy, if authorized by the patient. In addition, Bill 477 HD 2 language is in contradiction to the established law of Act 242, which prohibits Medical Discrimination (see 514A-(b), which reads “For the purposes of medical care, including organ transplants, a registered qualifying patient’s use of marijuana in compliance with this part shall be considered the equivalent of the use of any other medication under the direction of a physician and shall not constitute the use of an illicit substance or otherwise disqualify a registered patient from medical care.” If this section of HB 477 HD 2 passes, then this bill itself would be an instrument of “disqualifying registered patients from medical care” by way of denying access to cannabis as medicine.
4. **Capitalistic Exploitation:** The only apparent benefit to end the caregiver function in the current 329 program is to force patients, who are unable to grow their own medicine, and have a caregiver, to buy from a dispensary. This is clearly Capitalistic Exploitation as enabled by government legislation. There is no Medical Necessity, law enforcement problem, or Administrative Issue that justifies the ending of this established practice. HB 477 HD 2 is an attempt to “fix” a non-existent problem.
5. **Regressive Limitation on the Original Intent of the 329 Law:** The original, and continuing, intent of the 329 law is to provide patient access to a sufficient supply of cannabis. If the caregiver function were to end, then patients who have limited income and/or inability to travel to dispensaries to buy their cannabis products, there would be a limitation on access.

Related to item (4), limiting the number of 329 cards for the purpose of cultivation per location to 2; This item is problematic from the perspective of law enforcement, access to medicine, medical discrimination, Capitalistic Exploitation, and regressive limitation upon the original intent of the 329 law. Specifically:

1. **Law Enforcement Problems:** Law enforcement agents would be placed in the position of arresting people who are currently lawful citizens, placing additional burden upon a police force that is already stretched thin and needs its resources for other purposes.
2. **Access to Medicine:** Many patients live in a location where cultivation is not practical, but have access to a location where they can grow their own plants. In many situations throughout the state there are family/friend networks where a number of 329 cards are grouped together, such that the family/friend network may cultivate an adequate supply in a cost-effective fashion. HB 477 HD 2, if passed, would severely limit the ability of patients to produce an adequate

supply. If these many hundreds, if not thousands, of patients are unable to afford the prices at the dispensaries then they would be faced with either buying from illegal sources or not having their medicine. Many would choose to buy from illegal sources, adding to the burden of law enforcement being forced to arrest and prosecute people who are currently law-abiding citizens. Another outcome of this regressive action would be to move more money to the criminal underground, an actuality for which the 329 program is designed to prevent. Therefore, HB 477 HD 2 is, ironically, expected to cause the very problems that the overall 329 program is being designed to prevent.

3. No other medicine is restricted such that only two (or five) patients may have their medicine of the same kind at one location. A family of 10 could each, theoretically, each have a prescription for the same Schedule II drug (let's just use the example of Adderall) with no limitations. HB 477, HB 2, is blatantly discriminatory in that it limits the access of patients to their cannabis, in violation of Act 242 (please see citation above). Indeed, to this effect, the limitation on the number of allowed cultivation permits per location should be completely eliminated in order to comply with the established law found in Act 242.
4. Capitalistic Exploitation: The only apparent benefit to limit the number of cultivation permits per location is to reduce the overall patient-production capacity, thereby forcing patients, who are unable to grow their own medicine at their residence, to buy from a dispensary (or the illicit market). This is clearly Capitalistic Exploitation as enabled by government legislation. There is no Medical Necessity, law enforcement problem, or Administrative Issue that justifies the ending of this established practice. HB 477 HD 2 is an attempt to "fix" a non-existent problem.
5. Regressive Limitation on the Original Intent of the 329 Law: The original, and continuing, intent of the 329 law is to provide patient access to a sufficient supply of cannabis. The current limitation on the number of cultivation permits per location is arbitrary and capricious, and is discriminatory. Further limitation on the number of cultivation permits per location is an assault on patient ability to adequately, legally, ethically and morally produce their own cannabis at a fair price.

Related to item (5), authorizing the Department to order grow site inspections: This law has issues related to unwise allocation of scarce State resources, possible HIPPA issues, medical discrimination issues, and Due Process issues. Specifically:

1. Unwise allocation of scarce resources: At any time, and especially during recovery from a Pandemic, allocation of state resources (personnel time, gasoline, equipment wear, etc.) on the invasion of the privacy of citizens to engage in potential arbitrary and capricious acts of medical inspection, is frivolous. Resources available to the State should be used for necessary purposes.
2. HIPPA issues: Patient information is protected under the Health Information Portability and Protection Act (HIPPA). The dissemination of patient information to potential “inspection teams” has the potential to violate HIPPA laws, and makes the State liable to lawsuit based on HIPPA violations.

1. Medical Discrimination issues: No other medicine is subject to arbitrary and capricious home-invasion style inspection as to the timely consumption of prescribed medicine. A patient who is prescribed Morphine is not subject to a State worker entering the home to count the number of pills that he/she is consuming, with the assumption that the patient is taking too few/too many of said pills. HB 477 HD 2 is, hence, in violation of Act 242 (please see citation above). Indeed, to this effect, if HB 477 HD 2 were to become law then it would set dangerous precedent allowing State authorities to enter anyone’s home based on arbitrary and capricious reasons such as “no evidence, sir, we are just invading your privacy because it is legal”.

1. Due Process issues: If HB 477 HD 2 were to pass then there would be a suspension of Due Process in regard to cannabis patients. Hawaii and Federal law requires that Due Process be observed, and Habeas Corpus be followed. To sum up, HB 477 HD 2 is unconstitutional in this regard.

Related to item (6), stating that Federal law prevents transport of cannabis over a body of water: This item is patently absurd, given the fact that Marijuana is illegal on a Federal level. The entire 329 program is in violation of Federal law. However, Federal authorities defer to State law on the subject of medicinal cannabis laws Please see DOJ Policy statement, Thursday, August 29th, 2013, link here: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-update-marijuana-enforcement-policy>). Given this fact, the argument that a specific cannabis-related item is illegal on the Federal level lacks relevance and is arbitrary and capricious.

Related to Item (7). Please see response to Item (6), above.

CONCLUSION: I highly recommend that items 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be stricken from HB 477 HD 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Brittain, MA, LCSW, DCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

808 938-8930

Effectivechangelc.com

Doctor420hawaii.com

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:51:56 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Blodgett	Testifying for Epic-Interventions LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Related to item (1), which authorizes dispensaries to buy/sell 3,000 grams between each other: This item is not problematic, in our perspective, and should be included in a bill that addresses only dispensary operations.

Related to item (2), increasing the number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per dispensary license: This item is not problematic, in our perspective, and should be included in a bill that addresses only dispensary operations.

Related to item (3), prohibiting caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualified patients: This item is problematic from the perspective of law enforcement, access to medicine, medical discrimination, Capitalistic Exploitation, and regressive limitation upon the original intent of the 329 law. Specifically:

(A) Law Enforcement Problems: Law enforcement agents would be placed in the position of arresting people who are currently lawful citizens, placing additional burden upon a police force that is already stretched thin and needs its resources for other purposes.

(B) Access to Medicine: Many patients are home-bound or otherwise unable to physically get to a dispensary to purchase their medicine. If this part of the law were to pass, these patients would be denied their legal medicine. The result would be that the patient would need to either do without, or solicit illegal sources in order to gain an adequate supply.

(C) Medical Discrimination: No other medicine is restricted such that a caregiver is unable to buy or pick up Schedule II drugs from a pharmacy, if authorized by the patient. In addition, Bill 477 HD 2 language is in contradiction to the established law of Act 242, which prohibits Medical Discrimination (see 514A-(b), which reads "For the purposes of medical care, including organ transplants, a registered qualifying patient's use of marijuana in compliance with this part shall be considered the equivalent of the use of any other medication under the direction of a physician and shall not constitute the use of an illicit substance or otherwise disqualify a registered patient from medical care." If this section of HB 477 HD 2 passes, then this bill itself would be an instrument

of “disqualifying registered patients from medical care” by way of denying access to cannabis as medicine.

(D) Capitalistic Exploitation: The only apparent benefit to end the caregiver function in the current 329 program is to force patients, who are unable to grow their own medicine, and have a caregiver, to buy from a dispensary. This is clearly Capitalistic Exploitation as enabled by government legislation. There is no Medical Necessity, law enforcement problem, or Administrative Issue that justifies the ending of this established practice. HB 477 HD 2 is an attempt to “fix” a non-existent problem.

(E) Regressive Limitation on the Original Intent of the 329 Law: The original, and continuing, intent of the 329 law is to provide patient access to a sufficient supply of cannabis. If the caregiver function were to end, then patients who have limited income and/or inability to travel to dispensaries to buy their cannabis products, there would be a limitation on access.

Related to item (4), limiting the number of 329 cards for the purpose of cultivation per location to 2; This item is problematic from the perspective of law enforcement, access to medicine, medical discrimination, Capitalistic Exploitation, and regressive limitation upon the original intent of the 329 law. Specifically:

(A) Law Enforcement Problems: Law enforcement agents would be placed in the position of arresting people who are currently lawful citizens, placing additional burden upon a police force that is already stretched thin and needs its resources for other purposes.

(B) Access to Medicine: Many patients live in a location where cultivation is not practical, but have access to a location where they can grow their own plants. In many situations throughout the state there are family/friend networks where a number of 329 cards are grouped together, such that the family/friend network may cultivate an adequate supply in a cost-effective fashion. HB 477 HD 2, if passed, would severely limit the ability of patients to produce an adequate supply. If these many hundreds, if not thousands, of patients are unable to afford the prices at the dispensaries then they would be faced with either buying from illegal sources or not having their medicine. Many would choose to buy from illegal sources, adding to the burden of law enforcement being forced to arrest and prosecute people who are currently law-abiding citizens. Another outcome of this regressive action would be to move more money to the criminal underground, an actuality for which the 329 program is designed to prevent. Therefore, HB 477 HD 2 is, ironically, expected to cause the very problems that the overall 329 program is being designed to prevent.

(C) No other medicine is restricted such that only two (or five) patients may have their medicine of the same kind at one location. A family of 10 could each, theoretically, each have a prescription for the same Schedule II drug (let’s just use the example of Adderall) with no limitations. HB 477, HB 2, is blatantly discriminatory in that it limits the access of patients to their cannabis, in violation of Act 242 (please see citation above).

Indeed, to this effect, the limitation on the number of allowed cultivation permits per location should be completely eliminated in order to comply with the established law found in Act 242.

(D) Capitalistic Exploitation: The only apparent benefit to limit the number of cultivation permits per location is to reduce the overall patient-production capacity, thereby forcing patients, who are unable to grow their own medicine at their residence, to buy from a dispensary (or the illicit market). This is clearly Capitalistic Exploitation as enabled by government legislation. There is no Medical Necessity, law enforcement problem, or Administrative Issue that justifies the ending of this established practice. HB 477 HD 2 is an attempt to “fix” a non-existent problem.

(E) Regressive Limitation on the Original Intent of the 329 Law: The original, and continuing, intent of the 329 law is to provide patient access to a sufficient supply of cannabis. The current limitation on the number of cultivation permits per location is arbitrary and capricious, and is discriminatory. Further limitation on the number of cultivation permits per location is an assault on patient ability to adequately, legally, ethically and morally produce their own cannabis at a fair price.

Related to item (5), authorizing the Department to order grow site inspections: This law has issues related to unwise allocation of scarce State resources, possible HIPPA issues, medical discrimination issues, and Due Process issues. Specifically:

(A) Unwise allocation of scarce resources: At any time, and especially during recovery from a Pandemic, allocation of state resources (personnel time, gasoline, equipment wear, etc.) on the invasion of the privacy of citizens to engage in potential arbitrary and capricious acts of medical inspection, is frivolous. Resources available to the State should be used for necessary purposes.

(B) HIPPA issues: Patient information is protected under the Health Information Portability and Protection Act (HIPPA). The dissemination of patient information to potential “inspection teams” has the potential to violate HIPPA laws, and makes the State liable to lawsuit based on HIPPA violations.

(F) Medical Discrimination issues: No other medicine is subject to arbitrary and capricious home-invasion style inspection as to the timely consumption of prescribed medicine. A patient who is prescribed Morphine is not subject to a State worker entering the home to count the number of pills that he/she is consuming, with the assumption that the patient is taking too few/too many of said pills. HB 477 HD 2 is, hence, in violation of Act 242 (please see citation above). Indeed, to this effect, if HB 477 HD 2 were to become law then it would set dangerous precedent allowing State authorities to enter anyone’s home based on arbitrary and capricious reasons such as “no evidence, sir, we are just invading your privacy because it is legal”.

(C) Due Process issues: If HB 477 HD 2 were to pass then there would be a suspension of Due Process in regard to cannabis patients. Hawaii and Federal law requires that

Due Process be observed, and Habeas Corpus be followed. To sum up, HB 477 HD 2 is unconstitutional in this regard.

Related to item (6), stating that Federal law prevents transport of cannabis over a body of water: This item is patently absurd, given the fact that Marijuana is illegal on a Federal level. The entire 329 program is in violation of Federal law. However, Federal authorities defer to State law on the subject of medicinal cannabis laws Please see DOJ Policy statement, Thursday, August 29th, 2013, link here: <https://www.justice.gov/.../justice-department-announces...>). Given this fact, the argument that a specific cannabis-related item is illegal on the Federal level lacks relevance and is arbitrary and capricious.

Related to Item (7). Please see response to Item (6), above.

CONCLUSION: I highly recommend that items 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be stricken from HB 477 HD 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Blodgett, MSW

EPIC Interventions LLC

Epic-Changes.com

Hawaii Compassionate Care
4-831 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 438-300
Kapaa, HI 96746

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 477 House Draft 2 “Relating to Cannabis”

By Kevin Baiko, MD

House Committee on Health
Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

March 19, 2020; 9:30am
Public Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

As a physician specializing in cannabinoid medicine for over 10 years in Hawaii, I recall what life was like before and after medical cannabis dispensaries opened in our state. Many patients have benefited from being able to legally purchase high quality medical cannabis. Whether for financial, medicinal or personal reasons, a great many more of my patients prefer to grow their own medicine. And why not? How empowering it is to benefit from one’s own garden! If you surveyed my patients, far more would rather the option of home grow without dispensaries than further limiting their options to grow at home for the sake of dispensaries.

From my professional perspective several proposed changes to Hawaii’s existing medical cannabis law in this second draft of House Bill 477 would be a disservice to those the law is intended to serve – medical cannabis patients!

RE: Phasing out caregivers as of December 31, 2021

Allowing caregivers to grow for patients benefits patients in need. I have many patients who can’t grow medical cannabis for themselves and can’t afford to purchase it from our dispensaries. Some live in locations not well suited for cultivation. Others lack the physical capacity to take on such a responsibility. However, most have friends and/or family who are willing and able to grow cannabis at a suitable grow site. Regulations imposed on our dispensaries have driven up medical cannabis costs far beyond affordable range for many of my patients. Phasing out caregivers does not help any patients, but it would make life more difficult for many.

RE: No more than 2 qualifying patients per household (20 plant limit per property)

Larger medical cannabis gardens benefit more patients. I have many patients with extended families living at one location, many with more than 2 patients residing at same address, especially in the financially challenging wake of global pandemic. It's not surprising that if one family member prefers a natural medicine like cannabis to pharmaceuticals that other family members have the same preference. Growing one's own medicine is not without its challenges. Live plants are subject to damage, disease and theft. More plants increase likelihood patients will get their medicine. Limiting that number to 20 does not help any patients, but it would make life more difficult for many.

RE: Compliance Checks

I am very troubled by this wording: "The department (DOH), or law enforcement upon the request of the department, may make administrative inspections of registered grow sites to verify compliance with the requirements." This language calls into question a medical cannabis patient's right to demand search warrant when a public official wishes to inspect private property. One shouldn't have to waive essential rights to legally use medical cannabis. This amounts to medical apartheid toward medical cannabis patients. What are the limits of such compliance checks? Medical cannabis plants can be grown anywhere on one's property, including indoors. Would the curtilage of one's home become fair game to inspection in the interests of compliance? Keep in mind, "compliance" checks typically take the form of highly visible and intimidating paramilitary encounters, which are hardly conducive to healing and draw unwanted attention of neighbors, placing patients and their property further at risk. If getting registered amounts to permission for inspection, many patients will choose to grow cannabis without registration.

These changes seem to cater to bureaucratic interests of State administration and financial interests of state licensed medical cannabis dispensaries. While I do not object to such motivations, changes should not be made to existing law at the expense of medical cannabis patients, the ones the program is meant to serve. Their interests should be top priority!

We're in the middle of a global pandemic. The local economy has crashed. People are stressed and struggling financially. Is this really the time to limit affordable grow-at-home options? Is this where our priorities should be now?

I must oppose House Bill 477 House Draft 2 "Relating to Cannabis". I beg you consider my rationale for doing so.

Thank you for your consideration. Aloha.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:59:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gabriel preciado	Testifying for Lama O Aloha farm co-op	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, to whom it may concern,

I oppose bill 477 in its current form. I represent a small, but growing number of medical card holders, whom together we have been able to co-operatively come together to grow, cultivate, and process our own medicinal cannabis. Many individuals lack the knowledge, experience, space, time, and or funds to grow their own plants, in to provide a sufficeint supply of quaility medical grade cannbis for processing, and consumption, through various forms , wether it be orally, topically, smokeable or concentrate. To further our patient growing issues, a state medical 329n cardholder has no place to go in order to find seeds or propegated clones in order to start our own personal garden.

I oppose Bill 477 in its current state, and have many recommendations as to how to move forward.



March 18, 2021

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Anella Saito-Takabayashi, Director of Retail Operations
Christopher Cole, Director of Product Development

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB477 HD2

RELATING TO CANNABIS

Maui Grown Therapies was awarded Hawaii's first medical cannabis license in April of 2016 and conducted the state's first legal sale of cannabis on August 8, 2017. We are now well into our fourth year of operations and have served over 5000 registered patients at our Kahului dispensary. Earlier this week we opened our second dispensary in Lahaina to serve West Maui patients. A third dispensary location has been approved by DOH to serve the Upcountry patient community. As a company devoted to enriching community health, patient welfare, and product safety, MGT welcomes and supports the expanded patient access and production provisions of HB477 HD2.

Expanding Patient Access. MGT's patient community is diverse and geographically dispersed. Kupuna represent the largest segment of MGT's patients, with 61% of active patients over 50+ years old and many (9%) qualifying for compassionate pricing based on economic hardship. Physical proximity to a convenient and safe dispensary matters. Even with the opening of MGT's third dispensary later this year, communities on the south and north shores will remain underserved. A statutory adjustment in the number of allowable dispensaries from 3 to 5 will enable improved patient access in a convenient, safe and affordable manner.

Meeting Product Needs. MGT has rapidly increased capacity at our state-of-the-art, zero emissions production center in response to increased patient demand for quality-assured medicinal products. By June of 2021, we will exceed 80% of our statutorily allowed production capacity. With two additional MGT dispensary locations in underserved areas of Maui coming online in 2021, an increase in our licensed production capacity will be needed to meet the needs of Maui's growing patient base.

_Mahalo for your consideration.

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To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Finance Committee

Fr: Bill Jarvis – CEO, Noa Botanicals

Re: **Testimony In Support of House Bill (HB) 477, House Draft (HD) 2**

RELATING TO CANNABIS

Authorizes the department of health to allow a licensed dispensary to purchase up to three thousand grams of medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products from another licensed dispensary to ensure ongoing qualifying patient access. Increases the allowable number of production centers and retail dispensing locations per dispensary license. Places certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after 12/31/21. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after 12/31/21. Permits inspections of registered grow sites by department of health or law enforcement to verify compliance with cannabis plant limits for cultivation by qualifying patients. Limits dispensary-to-dispensary sales to those located on the same island, as long as federal law prohibits the transportation of medical cannabis over a body of water.

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

Manoa Botanicals, LLC, one of three Hawaii State authorized medical cannabis licensees on Oahu, supports HB477, HD2 as an important bill for the dispensary industry in order to enhance the medical cannabis dispensary program with additional production facilities and retail dispensaries, to strengthen patient access, ensure product controls and safety, and provide improvements to the administration of the program.

There are two main issues that this bill aims to change: **FIRST**, allow each licensee to increase the number of facilities currently allowed from two (2) production facilities and (2) two retail facilities; and **SECOND**, allow the Department of Health (DOH) to permit a licensee to sell and transport medical cannabis and medical cannabis products to another licensee.

Both of these provisions are extremely important to support the currently unsustainable medical cannabis program in the state of Hawai'i. Patients benefit from easier access and lower prices due to a licensees' ability to scale. Some licensees are not able to open up additional retail stores due to various circumstances such as insufficient production facilities to supply the additional locations. Further, licensees already at their dispensary limit, who have the ability and desire to increase patient access, are currently prevented from adding more convenient patient locations, which comes at the patient's expense. Additionally, allowing licensees to wholesale medicine to one another, a core tenet in all medical programs around the nation, would assist in solving these issues of patient product access.

Lastly, HD2 includes new amendments relating to the caregiver program and growing at home for personal medical use or as a caregiver for another individual. We have always supported the right for patients to grow their own medicine and will continue to advocate for that choice. Caregivers are important to ensure sick patients can obtain medicine and have a trusted individual assist them if necessary. Unfortunately, Hawai'i's medical cannabis program has seen and experienced how some operators get around the intent

of the caregiver program by stacking hundreds of medical cards and becoming an unlicensed, unregulated, large-scale cultivator themselves, while not having gone through the scrutiny and diligence of the original application process. This type of operation exists outside of the regulated medical program where there are standards for laboratory testing, a seed to sale tracking system, and security requirements. It also puts undue competitive and financial stress on licensed operators due to the avoidance (by these unlicensed operators) of taxation, other fees, and mandated operating overhead. Unlicensed operators are also a public safety risk and nuisance to neighbors.

We support efforts to address this issue but want to acknowledge this language should not infringe on the right to grow at home at small scale in the spirit of the original legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:27:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha I am Sean Lindsey lifetime resident of the big island and native Hawaiian. I oppose bill HB 477 because it only serves the interests of the cannabis dispensaries which seek to control ALL production of cannabis on the island. This must never happen. The whole point of legalizing medical cannabis is for health purposes not economics. Now the dispensaries are trying to limit the power of the medical patient, under the guise of "oh we aren't making money because of the black market." decriminalize cannabis and we will eliminate this discussion. Aloha Sean Lindsey

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:15:05 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Rich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Individuals still have rights to choose .

Mahalo

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:25:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hanna Greenwell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Patients cannot all grow the quality medicine they need which is why caregivers are such a big deal. please allow people to keep getting their medicine.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:52:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Rauhe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 477 HD2 as it does not meet the needs of legal medical card holders but instead was written by the Department of Health to increase their ability to tax cannabis and channel patients to existing dispensaries. Through conversations with dispensaries on the Big Island and with the HICIA, it is clear the Department of Health ignored not only the needs of the legal medical card holders but also those poised to profit from this bill. Please note the following points showing this bias-

(1) Caregivers were already set to phase out in 2023, but this bill moves that up to this year even when the state has been experiencing major economic impacts from COVID-19. This puts an unfair burden on patients who lost their job due to the decrease in tourism and are unable to grow their own medicine;

(2) No increase in the number of licenses for dispensaries but instead, focusing on increasing the size of those existing licenses. This flies in the face of previous plans to continue to open new licenses to allow for competition and for better access to medicine. If there is a concern that dispensaries are unable to meet demand, they are by the way, doubling down and using tax payer money to prop up poorly run businesses should not be the goal of the legislature;

(3) Increased access for Department of Health to inspect and gain access to private property even though less stringent language already existing in HRS 329;

(4) Continued attack and limiting the number of patients allowed in a single residence. Do you think cannabis is a medicine? Does the state plan to limit the number of patients receiving chemotherapy or allergy pills? Clear bias here that cannabis is not a medicine and instead is something for the state to tax and profit from.

In addition to not meeting the needs of legal medical card holders, this bill sets a dangerous future for energy use and carbons emissions from indoor cannabis production. Most caregivers grow their cannabis outside using minimal lighting and climate control needs. The level of testing required by the state requires all

cannabis sold in dispensaries to be indoor grown in high energy use facilities. In fact, East Oahu has the highest carbon emissions per ounce of cannabis in the country at 324 pounds of CO2 or the equivalent of burning 16 gallons of gas.

<https://theconversation.com/growing-cannabis-indoors-produces-a-lot-of-greenhouse-gases-just-how-much-depends-on-where-its-grown-156486>

How could the legislature setup such a future where most of the cannabis is grown indoors requiring more and more energy to meet state standards? Instead of doubling down on a failed approach, it took over a decade to even start the first dispensary, I think Hawaii should open up the laws more and setup Hawaii to benefit from its legal medical program. I want a future where both small and large operations are able to operate legally allowing the market to drive success instead of carefully written laws that change every two years. The Department of Health needs to work with legal medical card holders instead of their own staff and lobbyists to draft laws that don't affect their lives beyond what they do at work. If there is a budget issue, more laws and restrictions requiring more enforcement is hardly the answer. Thank you for reading my testimony.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:58:13 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Stelpstra	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Ladies and gentlemen of the legislative council, this measure would be a complete reversal of what the patients in Hawaii need! We have a much needed program out here @ Care Waialua. We have over 500 patients listed with our farm. If it wasn't needed we wouldn't have even have more than three. I was just at the farm last week Friday we reached a milestone of more than 100 patients served in one day. Not everyone has the ability to grow marijuana or can afford the prices that othe dispensary's charge. If you pass this bill patients will GO BROKE not able to afford the medication that they need. I personally was in a bad motorcycle accident and had to leave my career at sea as U.S. merchant Mariner. I suffered a TBI and suffer from migraine headaches daily. The only thing that works is smoking medical marijuana every day all day long. If I am forced to pay the exorbitant prices for my medication I will go broke! I welcome each and every one of you representitives to come out and see for yourselves! Before you you suck up to the big machine! Come witness the number of patients that we serve and then tell us what we are doing is against the Law.

Aloha James Charles Stelpstra 8083062699 gett2jim@gmail.com

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:12:37 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Siefman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As someone who has a deep connection to this plant, understands cultivation, & deals with patients, I oppose some parts of this bill and suggest they seriously be re-considered or re-Amended. Eliminating caregivers ability to cultivate for patients and restricting grow sites to 2 cards is a huge step backwards. Limiting plant count doesn't really make sense and it has the potential to spread out the workload for DOH & law enforcement even more. As of February 28, DOH reported 31,509 valid in state patients.. let's say half of them all go to dispensaries and the other half does grow sites, so that's 15,000 or so patients, 2 cards per site makes that 7500 grow sites to inspect... is this where we (doh & law enforcement) want to be putting our energy? it seems wasteful and time consuming and overall unnecessary.. Grow sites that have multiple cards are not abusing the system or taking advantage, they do this because the plants have different stages of their life cycle and there is a specific system in place for cultivation where the plants need to be in different stages, so medicine can be produced properly on a regular basis. The compliance checks are nerve wracking to most people, freedom impinging, and again seems unnecessary for 20 plants. It's also silly because what if someone has 23 plants, that's it they're in trouble? Limiting plant count almost causes more problems and gray areas. DOH had reported one farm in Oahu with 409 patients, so if that many people would rather go that route then go to the dispensary, does that say Anything about what the people want? People want to know what is going into their medicine, they want that close relationship with the grower just as you go to the farmers market on the weekend and talk the person that grew what you had just purchased. Thank you for reading and considering this view point

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:14:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam ondi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:20:28 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubrey Stuart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Nope

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:22:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ashley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

None

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:23:54 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Elwood	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB477. This will hurt individual patients. It is purely there by design of the corporations running these dispensaries to limit competition.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:28:41 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ayanna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Time should be focused elsewhere..

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:32:55 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
luke witt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This will never work and will only force growers to go under ground again. DOH and the doctors involved will lose out and if people actually follow the new card count then htere will be even more for you manage. this is not the people choice and does not support the medical program in place. you shoud allow for intergration so that you cna tax the black market not make it worse!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:37:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Tijerina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Cannabis has changed my life. I use it for medicinal purposes and I feel like when used properly it could really help people suffering from anxiety, PTSD, depression etc

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:44:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
matthew moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is unjust and immoral and only serves to further penalize and discourage people to grow their own medicine. This bill is written by and for the dispensaries to further monopolize their financial benefit and takes sovereignty away from regular people who are sick and can not afford to pay the hewa prices of the big dispensary's. I oppose this bill vehemently and sincerely hope that the opposition is heard loud and clear. As we are the majority. I oppose. The community opposes this unpono piece of backdoor legislation. Aloha kakou and mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:08:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christina camacho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The care giver program is important to me because it is vital to be able to aide in providing pain relief to those that are unable to do so for themselves! As a nurse I am well aware that unrelieved chronic pain and even intermittent acute pain can lead to other issues, like high blood pressure, increased heart rate, stress, disability, depression, nausea! If the individual is aware of what helps to relieve pain then why deny them access to it!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:13:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:31:45 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
zack	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose hb 477 for numerous reasons but first and foremost by taking away the right for caregivers to grow medicine for qualified patients. The majority of the people I know in the medical marijuana program in Hawaii don't have a spot to grow at their residence so they have a caregiver who has property grow medicine for them. Without the caregiver they would have only the dispensary which is two hours away to get medicine. The cost for these patients is much higher if you have to rely on the dispensary for medicine. Roughly at the dispensary it's 70-80 dollars an eighth and from a caregiver between 30-40 dollars. I would like to see this bill killed or at very least the language changed about removing caregivers. Mahalo nui for your time.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:38:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Siehr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are so many patients that can not afford and therefore grow there own , please consider the seriously ill who are in need of this access the most , please do not take away there rights to grow together in community co ops !

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:40:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shayne stambler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

At a time when several forward thinking states have legalized cannabis use, we are now taking a huge step backwards. This is not progress. If you allow people to use cannabis for the variety of ailments it treats, you have acknowledged it's benefits. So let's move on to legalization.

Thank you, shayne stambler

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:43:08 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayden Keaulana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a 329 patient I strongly oppose this bill. Aloha

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:51:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Dunnington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STROGLY oppose this measure. Not everyone has room to grow plants. These farms are a life-line to MANY of us.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Karen Cook

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

If these two things are not addressed it will cause financial hardship for me and my family as we can not afford to purchase the medicine at the dispensary. I feel as though doing away with the caregiver program is a slap in the face to patients who are too ill to grow themselves. The sick, poor and underserved people of these islands once again will be stepped on by big money. The reduced medical card numbers at a specific location keeps people who don't own land from growing their own medicine.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Karen Cook

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:58:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
blake kniffing	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, first and foremost I just want to say how many Hawaii citizens rely on Medical cannabis from a co opp.. by being a medical patient myself that suffers from PTSD and Insomnia Medical Cannabis is a safe an healthy form of medicine that I myself and so many other medical patients rely on for healthy natural medicine that is non pharmaceutical.. this Bill will destroy years of work and dedication to providing medical can I is to patients on island at a legal and affordable price where so many (as myself) can NOT afford to pay "dispensary medical grade" prices for overly priced medicine that will cause thousands to go bankrupt on their medical supplies and forced to go back to the "black market".. please think about the consequences this bill would create and be a big step backwards for the community that relays on medical cannabis as a natural, healthy and safe form of medicine.. work with the patients not against them if you want to see real progress and money to legally support the state and medical cannabis industry that is well in place! Aloha, Blake Kniffing.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Brian Cook

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

If these two things are not addressed it will cause a financial hardship for me and my family as we can not afford to purchase the medicine at the dispensary. I feel as though doing away with the caregiver program is a slap in the face to patients who are too ill to grow themselves. The sick, poor and underserved people of these islands once again will be stepped on by big money. The reduced medical card numbers at a specific location keeps people who don't own land from growing their own medicine.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Brian Cook

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:02:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camani Gunthrope	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:05:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Cavanaugh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't support draconian restrictions for natural cost effective medicine that is accessible to local residents. Such a proposed restriction is arbitrary at best. OPPOSE!!! Please and Thank you!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:07:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am senior citizen, life-long resident of Hawaii, and a 329 card holder. I oppose this bill because it limits access to cannabis, which I rely on for relief from chronic pain. Much as I value and appreciate the competent and compassionate service provided by the dispensary, limiting cannabis access exclusively to dispensaries places an undue burden and expense on me as a patient.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:24:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaun smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Is harmful to patients needing access to affordable medicine..

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:34:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

this bill, will hike prices up and make so many patients go with out there affordlbe needed medicine. These people need this natural medicine and it is un fair too dictate that. As a son of a parent with cancer, canibid has extremly helped my father and is far better then opiod pain killers. this is an example of just one case you will be destroying.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:37:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom ever this may concern, I am writing on behalf of this bill and opposing it!!! It will take all rights away from the people and really hurt a lot of the lower income families in Hawaii. This is an Agriculture state and to not be able to grow for another patient (a human being In need of help) and then to also try limiting to 2 cards per household when many households have way more than 2 people living there tthat may need medicine. This is unjust and unfair to the people of Hawaii and sad to see the state trying to hurt, take advantage and strip our rights away to suck people who need medicine! Again I OPPOSE this bill because the people of Hawaii need to be able to help each other, grave the right to grow their own and be able to grow our own medicine withered we can afford to do it without having to buy unorganic medicine that is HIGHLY HIGHLY priced. The people who need their medicine including most our elders will suffer because they will not be able to afford it.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:40:15 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
EDNA L BEZA CAY	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:46:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Hiapo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB477!!!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:57:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
narinee keni	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have carpal tunnel and back pain so having a caregiver really helps ensure my medicine is following the proper guidelines without any strain on me as a patient. Coronavirus has made caregivers necessary during all the stressful limits coronavirus has impeded on us daily especially for someone like me who regularly utilizes public transportation. I oppose hb477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:58:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Ventura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am not in support of HB477 HD2 as it is written. Specifically the ammendment to Section 329-130, limiting the number of patients a grow site can serve. As a patient, I do not have the skill nor the space/land to grow my own medicine. Being able to utilize an authorized grow site makes it better for not only me, but also thousands of other patients that live in tiny condos, shared housing, and other limited areas that do not feasibly allow for any farming, let alone medicinal cannabis. I strongly oppose HB477 HD2. Thank you for allowing my testimony and opinion to be considered.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:03:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dexter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Theres no need for 2 cards at the site if we already have one from my Doctor

why tear this apart while we have a pandemic in our hands people need thier medicine like i do having 2 cards per site dont need it. Aloha

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:03:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john d snelgrove	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Plese do not shut down our co-op. This is the only way we can afford our medicine.

Thank you for your consideration

R/John Snelgrove

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:09:22 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Casey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a 329 card holder and can not grow in my apartment. The caregiver program allows consistency with the strains. The dispensaries selections tend to vary and I have no control whereas with my care giver I can choose what strain they grow for me.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:11:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patricia molina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Living in Hawaii multi-generational homes individuals should be responsible for their own grow site and rules all while not be penalized simply because the home they live with already has patients and exceeding a limit. That is not right, majority of us live is multigenerational homes with multiple patients. If you haven't looked into the wage to housing cost issues I think you would find helpful information there on why homes in HAWAI'i are multigenerational that and also we Hawaiians not having access to our own 'Ä• ina.

caregivers should be able to grow for their patient that should not change.

mahalo nui,

patricia

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:17:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SAMANTHA CHENG	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE- PATIENTS DESERVE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY SOURCE THEIR MEDICINE FROM.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:29:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am disabled and depend on Care Waialua's affordable options to help me to receive medical marijuana by enabling me to grow marijuana at their address.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:31:30 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garrett Kuwada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Consideration should be given to transporting medical marijuana for personal use between islands since we are the only US state to be seperated by ocean. Additionally primary caregivers should be allowed to cultivate plants. I am disabled and on a fixed income with no knowledge of how to cultivate my own plants. This would be a financial burden on many with fixed incomes and who are not able to cultivate marijuana plants themselves.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:36:49 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kekai kamai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Kekai Kamai

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

This bill as it stands would be very detrimental to medical cannabis patients in Hawaii.

By doing this monopolizes medical cannabis from patients who cannot afford to get medication from the dispensary. By doing so this affects local grow shops and is detrimental to the cannabis community. Passing this bill also keeps the market from anyone else who wants to have the American dream and have the opportunity to obtain a medical dispensary license, and by doing so the market won't be diversified so we as cannabis patients don't have options.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely, Kekai Kamai

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:49:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Samperi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:56:37 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Baleen Markwort	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't take away my caregivers rights.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:06:17 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronze Fonoimoana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477 HD2

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:08:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanal DeMello	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By: Kanal DeMello

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice

Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara,

Gil Riviere

Mahalo for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.

2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment

made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

This bill as it stands would be very detrimental to medical cannabis patients in Hawaii.

I am asking you to capitalize during this time, and to take advantage of this opportunity to increase Hawai'i economic wealth.

The amount of tax revenue could be great if the market is opened up by allowing patients the ability to assist and have a part in the market.

Hawaii could have x200-x700% more tax revenue than seen with coffee.

This plant should be taxed to sell like any other good.

Treat us as Legal Cannabis with sales laws and sales taxes that resemble more closely to coffee.

Having any plant count limit is not sustainable, and realistic, & should not continue to be a law.

Most importantly this Bill would be taking away people's access to their medicine. It is evil and should not pass.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely, Kanalu DeMello

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:12:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Myah Kamani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Limiting cards at a site has proven a failure in all other states and now progressive states have multi-card grow sites called cooperative farms working for hand and hand developing robust cannabis models for all.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:13:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ashley longakit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I writing in hopes to help you realize how devastating this law will be to the hawaii people.

Taking away the ability to grow your own medical "cannabis" is greedy and selfish. There are many people who truly need cannabis for many medical reasons as you already know. Many kupuna who will not be able to afford going to a store to buy there medicine. Cannabis is not covered under insurance! They will have to pay out of pocket. The people of hawaii are already struggling. This will just be one more hardship.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:13:15 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANGELA FELSTEAD	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill conflicts with purpose of farm; which would greatly inhibit product which is used for medicinal purpose. As for me, I have Kaiser who won't provide pain medication and I suffer from a few issues in which cannabis helps

My primary issue is rheumatoid arthritis in hands and feet. I apply topically as well as ingest either oil or edibles that I make at home for myself. Cutting source will cause me suffering and limit my already limited ability to work.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:23:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bo Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Bo Kim

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

This bill as it stands would be very detrimental to medical cannabis patients in Hawaii.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely, Bo Kim

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:47:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Hyatt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill to the fullest extent possible. Being a caretaker in Hawaii allows for an individual with lower income or special needs to be more taken care of by the caretaker than by the over priced dispensary. We should allow a farm to consumer or farm to retailer option. Allowing diversity into the market and more taxable income for the state. No brained. If it were federally legal than every dispensary in every state will need a Hawaiian grown product to showcase and where will all that come from. Small and larger farmers in Hawaii will not be able to keep up with the demand with the way the laws are now. I oppose this bill because it sets us up for failure in the long run. Mahalo.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:48:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Arenas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Jordan Arenas

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
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Furthermore as a patient myself I personally need a caregiver to provide my medicine. The prices of cannabis at dispensaries is excessively high for patients. I have severe back and hip pain for previous car accidents and medicinal cannabis has been the only remedy to help my pain. I did not do well taking OTC pain killers or even opiates (which is far more severe than a medically grown plant). In fact, the pain killers did the opposite and only created more health concerns.

Where is the fairness for the people? This bill is only benefiting the monopoly of dispensaries in Hawaii, and it appears to be about greed for money, rather than helping patients who are in dire need of free medicine that caregivers can provide.

The relationship between caregivers and their patients are also important. I would rather receive my medicine from someone I personally know, than from a dispensary that is mass producing marijuana. How can our rights of growing a simple plant be stripped away from us, but allows expenditure for the big businesses?

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jordan Arenas, Medical Marijuana Patient

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:49:00 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Carroll	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it will limit safe access to medical cannabis for patients.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:53:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Lapinad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There shouldn't be a law limiting the amount of people allowed to grow cannabis on one site. People like me who live in apartments, or people that have no time for the plants won't be able to get their medicine. Dispensaries are overpriced, so we depend on our farm to supply us with our medicine and that won't be possible if there's a limit to how many people can grow on a site. If we are legalized/prescribed to use this form of medicine, it should be easy for us to obtain, like every other pharmacy. Thank you for your time and consideration. Aloha!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:00:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jay mora	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Jay Mora

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

jay mora

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:04:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Jackson-mydock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha I Jennifer Jackson Mydock oppose this bill HB477. It removes the right to a care giver and limits grow sites to 2 cards. We have a large family and essentially this bill would render some members of our family dependent on a dispensary. We need our right to grow and recieve the help of a care giver. Thank you please oppose bill hb477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:07:13 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Talley Womble	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Our Esteemed Elected Officials,

I am submitting testimony in STRONG opposition of this bill.

It is irresponsible of the state to allow for the expansion of current dispensary licenses without further re-evaluation of the medical model as it currently stands. Because of the vertically integrated model at the dispensary level, the overhead costs associated with running those businesses is exorbitant. This means that those costs are further passed to the patients, resulting in inflated costs to purchase necessary medicine. At a time when our economy and health care systems are already in an elevated state of crisis, it is absolutely imperative that access to medicine remains attainable to all patients at an affordable cost, which means that patients must be able to continue to work with a qualifying primary caregiver. Allowing the medical program to sunset would be a tremendous disservice to the constituents, and a step backward for legislation at the state level.

Less consideration needs to be given to the dispensaries and it is my strong opinion that a robust social equity program for expansion needs to be considered before any sweeping changes in licensing are allowed to occur. Allowing the dispensaries to continue to monopolize on their respective islands is shameful (long term Kauai resident, and I speak most specifically to their business). What are the licensees doing to give back to the communities in which they operate?

According to the census data from July 1, 2019 the median amount of adults per household, in the State of Hawaii, is 3.00. HB477 will reduce the number of qualified patients per caregivers from 5 to 2. If there are 3 adults living (according to census data) in the same household, requiring access to medical marijuana, then one of those adults will be without access to necessary medicine as they are currently allowed it by the state.

In such a progressive time as the political climate is allowing us, we must continue to make strides forward to allow MORE access to necessary medicine, not be more or

overly restrictive as is the current inclination of the state. Please consider expanding the current qualifying patient primary caregiver program, not further restricting it.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Megan Talley Womble

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:10:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Arnot	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill! I have a physical disability called Dystonia. My particular type is called Cervical Torticollis and I get severe headaches, head spasms and unable to turn my neck. After being on several medications with no results I tried Cannabis and it has been the only thing that has kept my condition under control. This herb is not addictive and helps so many with so many mental and physical health conditions. My husband passed from a Glioblastoma Brain Tumor in October and Cannabis got him some of his worse days. You will be hurting and creating so many having to turn to opioids for relief, which addictive and deadly!!!

Sincerely,

Linda Arnott

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:18:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KRYSTINE SAMSON BOUGHTON	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE BILL HB477 , THIS WOULD CREATE A HUGE PROBLEM FOR PATIENTS TO ACCESS MEDICATION AS MOST ARE UNABLE TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:19:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Buttel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill to prevent dispensaries monopolizing the cannabis industry

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:21:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Hewetson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Limiting a patients right to a caregiver/limiting the number of cardholders able to grow their medicine in a household is deplorable. Dispensaries can be expensive to those on limited incomes and having the ability to be able to grow or have a caregiver may be the only way some patients can afford access to their medication! Please don't put patients in a position to choose between spending money on essentials like food/rent and their medication, which is what passing this bill will mean for many.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:23:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Rhodes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. People are using opiates for pain and that is allowed but not cannabis.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:23:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My medicine!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:25:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kody Rosenberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill. There are many individuals who are using cannabis as a means to other prescription drugs. Marijuana will eventually become legal here in the states so why not try to push for that instead of looking at ways the government is able to make a profit. I wish our Government was here for the people instead of for the money.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:26:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Brenner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a concerned citizen opposing this bill that I see as serving not the public but private interests. It is a slap in the face of PATIENTS to restrict their medication. Patients deserve to know how their marijuana is grown through known and trusted caregivers. Caregivers with experience can grow marijuana to the specific needs of patients. Patients may have allergies or sensitivities to fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs used by dispensary growers. In these cases patients deserve to have dedicated caregivers growing for their specific needs. In many cases patients also require specific strains that dispensaries may not be providing. It is extremely concerning to see a bill like this being considered without concrete reason for it to exist. I do not see how this bill would benefit majority of the public at all and I beg you to not pass this bill. There are patients who rely on their responsible and dedicated caregivers to grow for their specific needs and standards. Please do not take their medicinal needs away from them.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:28:08 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott-Michael Waracka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years [on 12/31/21](#). This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.
3. Any major changes to the medical cannabis industry will have far reaching effects. If this industry dosent expand the construction industry that services them will also be effected.

As an electrical contractor i feel the state needs to allow the cannabis industry here in hawaii grow so that it will provide not only jobs in that area of expertise but also in

construction and maintenance such in return will bring taxes and more income to other local businesses.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Scott-Michael Waracka

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:29:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Wentland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

x

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:29:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ivan wentland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

x

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:29:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fariyal Savio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose bill HB 477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:29:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Woolley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today in Opposition to HB 477 HD2. It would be terrible to see patients unable to use a caregiver. Many people do not have the ability, or the property to grow their own medicine. I have cared for two cancer patients and have seen the benefits from the medicine I was able to provide, that they were unable to provide for themselves. Furthermore, this bill would force patients to acquire medicine from the dispensaries, which from our experience, is expensive and mediocre at best. Another negative aspect of HB 477 HD2 is the limiting of 2 cards maximum per property. I live in a large family and this is essentially saying only 2 out of my household of 6 should be allowed to grow medicine for themselves. I wholeheartedly disagree with HB 477 HD2 and hope you see the error in the language of this bill. Please think of the patients and caregivers and veto HB 477 HD2. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Simon Woolley

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:31:54 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred H Humphrey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill only strengthens the monopoly the government created with the current license system and creates more expense for departments and the government at a time when there is zero additional money available. I see no problem as the current laws are written. Please focus on the real problems we have here in the Islands.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:32:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james breeden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer with about a 15% chance of survival in 2016. Having medical cannabis available was critical for my recovery as it reduced my suffering from the chemotherapy. Furthermore, having medical cannabis at an affordable rate is equally important. Even with insurance, the cost of chemotherapy and surgery was \$50,000.00 out of pocket. The high cost at commercial dispensaries were out of my price range. Meaning that I my suffering would have increased because the pricing would have made medical cannabis unavailable for me.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:34:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Savio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose bill HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:36:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anthony ettleman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477 HD2!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:44:54 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Salanoa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against this measure

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:47:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dustin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is the worst bill by far. It ruins caregivers and their peoples protection an needs. Caregivers provide quality items as dispensaries do not. Blocking the people who care most about the plant and it's benifits is straight greed fed. Limiting caregivings amount allowed is fine but removing them more than anything is wrong.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:50:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Urasaki-Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed this bill because being able to have the option to use natural medicine should be an alternative choice. Especially to everyone and anyone who can benefit from it. I understand it doesn't work for all. But research and studies have show that patients who do use it benefit from the use of cannabis for many of issues. That is either hard to diagnose or treat. This is a plant that has been used for hundreds of generations. Why strip people away from it when all it does is good for people who need them? I try use a lot of naturopathic medicines before I turn to man made pharmaceuticals. I shouldn't have to bend over backwards and spend loads of money just to get marijuana for medicinal purposes.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:50:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ekahialii Mejia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the removing of the caretaker program because it will hurt the patients who been getting medicine for more then ten years free! These patients don't have the money to buy medicine when they been getting it free for more then ten years. Nobody should not be able to grow this medicine for the well being of another. Some patients who need this medicine cannot grow their own or have the money to buy the medicine. No matter how cheap the dispensary makes their medicine available to buy, it won't come close to the patients who been getting it free. So if the caregiver program gets taken away and caregivers can't grow for their patients anymore their will be a lot of patients who will suffer. This bill is so in favor of the dispensary that it is sad! It's screaming profit over patients and the PEOPLE DONT WANT THAT.!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:52:42 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken kasik	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

M

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:58:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elden K Kaeo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

After 17 years of painkillers for several surgeries, my doctor suggested I look into medical marijuana. I had been taking 1 liver test per year to assess my health from opioid use. After research, I obtained my license only to find that dispensaries were charging at least 400% markups on their products. Caregivers allow the only affordable way for the common person to afford consistent relief for their different personal ailments. Not only this, but even more important Caregivers provide a means to avoid returning to victims of our countries opioid epidemic. Please consider NOT enacting HB477. Mahalo, Elden K Kaeo

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:03:47 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cashel Vincent	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:08:06 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pascua	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

THIS BILL DOES NOT BENEFIT THE PATIENTS. It's about profits for the State and dispensaries. Having a grow site saves me a lot of money and I feel safe. The quality of products is so much better than the dispensaries.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:27:56 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven english	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm a 4 generation farmer dairy cattle crops. This is about our personal freedom to choose. If I want a professional grower to grow my crops then I go hire one. To grow a medical grade product you need a medical grade facility.. why is the state deciding who I have help me?? The people at the state are not growers or even horticulturalists so how is it they with no experience in this are are making the rules??? this make no sense at as there are nothing but complaints about the current system and the dispensers here are growing sun prime products to be gone with. Is no my garden my choice.. thousands of people have no

place to grow period.. we fill that gap. The gap

is huge. This is the erosion of America period. Sad days ahead of this goes through.. so by this plane there will be 30,000 individual gardens on this island that don't even have a clue how to grow a medical grade product. How is this helping our community.. we have chosen this and the politicians are supposed to support the people in the choices. Sad sad sad

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:35:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Tomlinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:48:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha HTH/CPN Committee,

I support this measure.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:50:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney L Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:51:46 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:56:12 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kitaura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:56:33 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christopher Griffin-Paige	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

X

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:06:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Kitaura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:07:39 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pjae Ah Sue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NA

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:13:51 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Pang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

This is me and my family's witten testimony to oppose HB477.

I am caretaker for my father, Gordon (age 80), who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 NCSLC Lung Cancer since late 2019. My father has been under the care of a Queens Oncologist, Dr. Kaye Kawahara, and has undergone every Cancer drug treatment they have given him but unfortunately it has not worked. My father has endured full Chemotheapy, Advanced Radiation, Immunotherapy, and several experimental treatments. Starting late 2020 and again in early Jan 2021 Dr. Kawahara has told my father twice the experimental cancer drugs he was taking were seriously damaging his blood counts.

Since the very beginning of his cancer treatments my father has been using medical cannabis oil and pain rubs, and more to successfully manage his nausea and pain associated with chemotherapy and other cancer drug treatments. After the doctors told my father the cancer had returned and there were more tumors, they also said their cancer drugs weren't working

My father started intense RSO (Rick Simpson Oil) which is produced by Care Wailua. Since he's been taking the oil his condition has been as good as we've seen and If it wasn't for Care Wailua Farm not only would we not be able to afford fathers medicine, we would not be able to get the very medicine that's been keeping him alive. If you take away our ability to access safe affordable and high quality medicine you will be depriving hard working Hawaii residents of the only source of its kind if you take our access to Care Wailua away.

Please do not pass HB477.

This is NOT what the people of Hawaii want.

Sincerely

Kevin

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:24:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Hetfeld	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1. **I oppose HB477.**
2. **I do not agree with the amendment that prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for a qualifying patient after December 31, 2021.**
3. **I do not agree that a location cultivating cannabis should be reduced from five patients to two. This seems like a move to drive more traffic and sales to dispensaries, and does not support the choice of patients to control where their cannabis comes, along with reducing their access to a convenient cultivation location.**

Mahalo for taking the time to consider this.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Hetfeld

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:31:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcus Tauvela	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:32:47 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
larry kiyohiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed. This bill tightens legal supply and leaves no alternative but to seek medical cannabis from dispensaries. This creates a choke point in the system, and many cannot afford their standard rates of \$450-500 per ounce. This bill encourages patients to go underground and get their "medicine" from the black market, where rates are half the price and thus more affordable. It comes with many risks however.

The bill even states that safe stable access for patients is part of the reason for this bill. However, allowing patients to grow their own in larger quantities, and for caregivers to provide medical cannabis for patients who cannot cultivate themselves, should be encouraged, not prohibited.

Hawaii has a long legacy of craft cannabis growers. Strains such as Kona Gold and Maui Wowie have achieved worldwide recognition, yet this bill kills all chance of growing the medical cannabis industry with a homegrown feel. What a great opportunity to build a niche craft industry in our agricultural space (eventually for world export), if only with the foresight to see the real potential that medical cannabis offers to our local economy. Think of the jobs, the industry infrastructure build out, all while keeping the legacy of local craft growers in tact.

I supported the use of medical cannabis to assist in treating opioid addiction, but it was denied despite overwhelming evidence and support presented.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Kiyohiro

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:38:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Martinez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:39:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Lynch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This will hinder my ability to get the medication I need when I need it.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:41:11 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert C. Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill, specifically the provision "Places certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after 12/31/21. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after 12/31/21." I don't care for any limits on where I can obtain medical cannabis. It should be my choice. Additionally, prohibition of primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients is absolutely ridiculous. Some patients do not have the ability or space to properly grow medical cannabis. This prohibition would force those patients to get their cannabis from the dispensary, which is of lower quality medically, compared to some private growers. I strongly oppose this bill as it will have negative consequences for the local community.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:59:18 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Visha Maile Awapuhi Kalahiki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose HB477. This bill does not allow caregivers to help elderly people or people who are in no condition to grow and cultivate, who are in dire need of medical marijuana, FORCED to BUY from the dispensaries at a higher cost giving the bigger corporate business more business and money. Our local growers grow to supply and support the communities who are in need of this medication. We need to be organic and support local. This medical marijuana is not a drug you do chemical things to it. It's a plant that provides medical benefits and allows the patients to have access to their medications. This program will cost \$295,000 a year. I don't think it's sustainable to anyone. Also 5.2% of 329 card holders buy cannabis from dispensaries. So the idea of HB 477 isn't for us 329 patients in Hawai'i and WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS HB477 Bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:04:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Bedinghaus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:32:39 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralph Michael Ng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Ralph and I'm a medical cannabis patient, I am oppose HB477.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:50:52 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melissa dietz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou,

My name is Melissa Dietz and I am writing to you in opposition of bill HB 477. As a medical marijuana cardholder with an already limited "Affordable" supply available the passing of this bill would heavily impact myself and my whole ohana.

As a mother of 3 and someone who heavily depends on medical marijuana for pain management I don't understand how this bill would be beneficial to myself and other patients who fall in the same category as me.

With limited time and mobility I hugely depend on my local farming community like Maille Cannabis and others in their industry. The passing of this bill would mean higher prices and longer commutes just to keep my pain under control. As a patient whose medication does not fall under medical coverage I see this as highly unfair and inconsiderate.

Our current economic state already limits my ability to work and provide for my family. The reason we use our local farmers and clinics such as Maille Cannabis are the easy accessibility, affordability and personal nature of these facilities. Our local clinics do everything they can to take care of me and other patients like me.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,

Melissa Dietz

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:03:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stuart saito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:20:46 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:21:29 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Herer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a robbery of our farming existence. To go to such low numbers (2) is absurdly outrageous. I understand regulations must be maintained but (2) is not realistic or functional. There are patients and a limited attainable amount of land to be utilized. Using one property instead of multiple will help maintain the infrastructure necessary for everyone to be able to heal. If inforced it will create more trouble with our already stressed system. This is not a good choice and I do not support this at all. Mahalo.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:28:47 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawson Avery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose!!!!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:39:37 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristina Rutkowski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Not fair to farms or patients.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:52:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sol Auerbach	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Sol Auerbach
2021

March 19,

HB477 HD2 Testimony

I humbly ask you to oppose the above stated legislation concerning Medical Cannabis in Hawaii. This legislation is regressive and will cause undue and severe burden on Hawaii patients accessing the Medicine they need to function. Medicine which is 100% nontoxic, Medicine which is grown easily in their gardens and at their local community farm.

The system of patients and caregivers has been working well since 2000. Commercial Licensed producers are good to fill the gaps; not to take over in a Monopoly Money Grab.

This bill is obviously going to put an extreme disadvantage to accessing affordable and good quality medicine for locals in Hawaii. Local people have been growing and perfecting the Medicine on these islands since Legalization of medicinal cannabis in 2000. These corporate dispensary are not able to meet the standard of quality and price point which oatients currently receive.

We need to instead support and pass [SB767 SD2](#) , which is a bill that looks to the future of Hawaii and which will bring real social and economic benefit to the State.

Hawaii was the first state to pass medical legalization in 2000. Lets move forward not backwards, and lets Support locals not corporations.

Oppose HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:20:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Stuart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Medical card holder here and currently receiving medicine from farm. PTSD Vet and loving what the farm offers. Would be disappointed to see local farm get shut down.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:03:06 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Juterbock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Rob Juterbock. this bill needs work and ultimately should not be passed. 2 of the 3 dispensaries grow their cannabis with synthetic nutrients and the other claims to use mostly organic, which is appreciated by the average patient but still remains unknown to patients since everyone thinks all cannabis is organic. This is a problem because run off is contaminated and is hurting our oceans, and the cannabis isn't pure like organic is. Many people on the island don't like the cannabis that is produced by the dispensaries compared to their home grown strains that work for them. If the DOH lets citizens apply for licenses, there would be an increase in quality and consumer health/safety since more stains will be available and different methods will be used. One thing I noticed is that distillate is being used at all 3 dispensaries, which is a concentration of THC. This is not good because the natural terpenes with medicinal effects and other cannabinoids except for THC are stripped and don't give the product a synergistic effect. The effects last a short amount of time and often end with a headache, especially from the vape pens. Pretty much everything the dispensaries carry is derived from distillate except for the flower. This means they are not cultivating it to its full potential. Every single strain has different amounts of terpenes and cannabinoids in which make them unique. Some strains work for people and some don't. the dispensaries are more focused on THC/CBD levels than anything else. I will say this, it's not just about the THC or CBD percentages, it's about all of the cannabinoids and terpenes and how they make you feel . A strain will lose its medicinal effects once it goes into distillate form. If a cannabis strain doesn't fully "flower" or produce full sized buds to be harvested in less than 7-8 weeks, the dispensary won't carry them. There are many strains with medicinal effects/qualities that can take 9-14 weeks to flower, depending on the variety. The dispensaries are more focused on making money than helping the patient. If the DOH allowed more licenses, the patients of Hawaii would have access to more varieties and will have more choices to help certain ailments. Please reconsider this bill because only allowing 3 dispensaries to control the market giving cannabis a false representation for the DOH since they don't know anything about the plant. I hope The Department of Health will do more research in this field. Feel free to contact me I will answer any of your questions. Mahalo.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:12:36 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Tamosiunas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Not everyone can afford the prices at the dispensary and they also cannot afford to grow their own medical cannabis or know how to properly. The State's current program, allowing a caregiver to provide for registered individuals and patients registering caregivers, is very important to those patients that cannot afford the the medical cannabis at the dispensaries.

Aloha,

Mark Tamosiunas

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:43:46 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raequel Crawford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 477 HD2, because in June 2018, I was employed by a dispensary here in Hawaii. I have lived here for nine years. I witnessed racism, firsthand. Pacific Islanders & other People Of Color were disrespected and treated like cattle. There was wrongful terminations and people that refused to deal with the mistreatment, quit. The same manager that was in charge of the terminations, months later was also terminated for stealing from the dispensary. I have submitted several emails to the dispensary, with no responses. This dispensary has documented EEOCs filed against them.

As a 329 card holder, it should be the patient's right to choose where we go with our hard, earned money. If we feel comfortable and trust a grow site, let those patients be allowed to go there.

HB 477 HD2 hinders patients of their right to choice. We should not be forced to purchase from dispensaries, especially those that mistreat employees.

It is unfair to growers and collectives to be described by dispensaries as "not taxed or not regulated." The DOH should work alongside them and not against them.

HB 477 HD2, prohibits caregivers from growing for patients, does not make dispensaries that allow racism accountable & also criminalizes cultivation in Hawaii, is unacceptable and unfair.

Do what's right! OPPOSE HB 477 HD2!

Thank You.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:38:18 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shane d celentano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha I think this is bad bill because it will impact individuals who rely on this plant not only for its medical benefits but also it's physical interaction with the plants , to change something that truly helps people get out of the house ,get dirty ,human to human and human to plant interaction can be very therapeutic in its self and especially in the times we are in now. Growing cannabis is not an easy thing if the collectives in the islands where to go away it would give a lot of people no way to cultivate their own and would force them to pay higher prices at the dispensary or the black market. If you think it's bad now wait till people have no source for For organic sun grown cannabis. I'm sure a few have used and abused the 329 program but we shouldn't all have to pay for other's mistakes. I oppose this bill and do not support bill sb477.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:58:25 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to submit my opposition to HB 477. I do not want to be forced into a dispensary where the cost is almost unaffordable. I have no way of verifying if it's grown without chemicals and gmos. As a patient, I want to ensure my medicine is available and grown in the safest way. As a citizen, I do not want my taxes used to increase dispensaries in the state. I can get my medicine now without the additional cost and from a trusted care taker. This bill will negativity effect some of the most vulnerable people at the worst time ever. Please don't be cruel to your citizens of the state of Hawaii.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:01:52 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Corelli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose!!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:30:01 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rich Carman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The main problem for me with this bill is taking away the caregiver option. It would directly effect my family, and force us to use the dispensaries. We would like to be able to produce our own medication rather than be forced to pay a dispensary.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:38:01 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erlan PF Bird	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477 to continue the program of care waialua, as it is my medicinal and therapeutical site to continue my healing and to support all who seek the same as I do with care waialua

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:40:26 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carlos macias	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB477 HD2

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:14:15 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janele Quinlan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a horrible bill that penalizes everyone for no reason. This is a massive overreach of the state into individual health care and our rights. Cardholders cannot own a gun and now you want to limit ADULT household members in a state where cost of living is so high most households have more than 2 adults. There is no limit to alcohol here and that causes more deaths and damage than anything cannabis users have done. This is discrimination to a whole group of people, there are already so many hoops to jump through just to get your card. It seems like the dispensaries are pushing this because they want more money in their pockets. This is an absolutely disgraceful direction this state is heading and I'm ashamed this is sailing through with no opposition from the people that are supposed to be looking out for us. Independent growers and caregivers are really important to the states industry. The dispensaries are priced so high it pushes people to black market sites. I can't believe THIS is what we are worrying about when unemployment is through the roof, homelessness is OUT OF CONTROL, cops don't respond to robbery calls, and there are game rooms on every corner. Stop coming after law abiding citizens because you don't understand the issue. Such a disappointing and greedy way to "lead".

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:34:25 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherie Berg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a medicinal cannabis patient and grower, I'm curious if law makers ever looked at how much the dispensary's are charging patients? My father in law, paralyzed from the piko down relied on cannabis to improve his way of life. His caretaker grew for him as he was unable to do it on his own. Living on a fixed income in Hawaii do you think he could afford paying \$45,000 a year for cannabis purchased at a dispensary? Caregivers can produce a higher yield of medicine. Lawmakers need to know that one plant can maybe yield 2 ounces (if the grower knows what they are doing). Two ounces costs in Kauai (varies on which island) at the dispensary \$500. A joint costs \$25. If a patient uses cannabis as a sleep aid and smokes a joint at night it will cost them \$25 a day. One plant takes 4 months to yield.

Why is the State making it more expensive for us to live? How many residents is this affecting? By passing this law the State again will be putting an extreme hardship on local residents that rely on caregivers to provide medicine. A PLANT that is grown in the ground. How can this do harm???

The State needs to figure out how to tax new residents buying up all our land or tourists taking over our lives. Do the right thing for the people of Hawaii and do not pass this bill. If this bill is passed it will do way more harm than good. Please do the right thing.

Law makers need to take a better look and get a better understanding of patients of cannabis. We are normal everyday people who contribute to society, pay taxes, are good neighbors that are just trying to get by. Please understand the severe hardship that you will be placing on thousands of residents (I bet a lot of Kupuna) by passing this bill. Please reconsider.

Cherie Berg

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:54:33 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Britt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha I have had my medical card since 2006 in Hawaii. Currently My wife and I both have a card MMJ, my daughter who is only 5 about to be 6 suffers from seizures and she is qualified to get her medical card according to the doctor. We currently use CBD to help here but its not enough. If this Bill passes I would not be able to caregive for my own daughter. This is very upsetting as a father and seems to come from a place of greed by both the dispensaries and the government. Its a plant that has been used for medicine for a very longtime in differenet cultures. Its super effective and yes we have tried man made medicine for my Duaghter is made things worse.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:55:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James S. Emery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I James S. Emery a 70 year old senior Veteran diagnosed with Stage 4 Prostate cancer by the V.A. Tripler do hereby testify. CBD/THC Medicinal Oil has saved my life in the last year. Urology was unable to operate on me because of the advanced spreading of the tumor. The Coop Grow Site specifically got me the medicine I needed, I have never been in a dispensary to buy my med's.

I wrote to the Cannabis Registry offering to come Testify in front of camera's about my process in obtaining my 329 card. and Bruce Anderson Dept of Health

The V.A. and Aloha Care both practice the same cancer fighting program. No alternative program available. That's where Alternative Health Care fill's the Void left by the Industrial Medical Complex.

In conclusion Grow Site's should not be limited for any reason, Cannabis should be available at Produce Stand's around the Island where it belongs.

James S. Emery

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:58:04 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Gardner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this measure as I see no compassion towards medical patients! It seems to be discriminating against those who cannot grow for themselves and those that live together more than two patients.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:02:10 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Guy Kelly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello my name is Guy Kelly. i live on the big island of Hawaii in hawaiian Ocean view estates. I am currently a medical Marijuana card holder and also a caregiver for a close friend that cannot grow his own medical Marijuana. Right now we have this arrangement because he's had some people steal his medical Marijuana and it's just not worth it to have people coming in to his property stealing his medicine. With our arrangement he is able to enjoy his medication without the stress of someone trying to steal it..

This bill will put countless people in an awkward position to start growing thier medicine at unsecured locations. And will also have people growing at places they are not allowed to do so. IE: most rentals will not allow a person to have a pet, let alone grow your medical Marijuana. Its seems outrageous that your only 2 options will be, grow it yourself at your own residence with no more than 2 people max? Or, buy it from the dispenserary. People are going to be put in these awkward situations because they cannot afford to go to the dispenseraries. With so many people out of work right now it almost seems criminal to take away a person's right to free medicine. There are so many reasons why I strongly appose bill HB477. BUT THE MAIN REASON IS THAT PEOPLE WILL SUFFER GREATLY. .

I Guy Kelly strongly appose bill HB477 because so many people depend on the caregivers to get them the medicine that they deserve. It will cause an Unnecessary amount of stress for medical Marijuana cardholders and force them into spending money they used to be able to save. I also feel like There should not be an end to the caregiver program here In Hawaii, And should be extended past 2023. Thank you for your time.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:03:21 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellery Kualii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill will hurt people who can't afford to pay the prices the dispensary wants

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:08:40 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Racine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:10:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kody	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i oppose bill HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:13:56 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn-Sheree Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:26:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john rosner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this greedy bill. Hawaii's medical marijuana patients need access to caregivers. This thinking is idiotic. Dispensary prices are well out of the range of most patients. We can't get our Medicine through insurance so having a caregiver be able to grow our medicine for us makes it actually obtainable. . Most patients lack the knowledge to grow for themselves. You guys botched the dispensary roll out so badly. Please don't remove the one common sense part of the law. I myself have a caregiver who provides me with medicine far superior to the dispensary's over priced garbage. Without him I'd be unable to afford my medicine and am unable to grow it myself. Please trash this bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:33:22 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:36:06 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Makaula	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:38:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
blythe amen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We as Hawaii home growers DON'T support this bill! It would take away the rights we have to grow the medicine we provide for our patients. Patients who otherwise would have to use pharmaceutical drugs that have so many harmful side affects. Their quality of life would suffer and during these pandemic times they either can't afford the pills or don't have the insurance to cover the majority cost, so there fore would be without medicine. Yes they could buy from the despinsary but with the cost of their meds being so high they couldn't afford them, once again leaving them without what they need to help with, pain, anxiety, depression, insamnea etc etc... so please vote NO against this bill and help our community continue to be able to share and grow our own for our selves and our patients.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:54:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas D Gunther	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello. I am a Hawaii medical marijuana patient and I am also a caregiver. My father has cancer and is in very poor health. The only thing that helps him eat and relieves his symptoms from his treatment is cannabis extract. He is not capable of growing his own medicine and we can not afford to purchase as the local dispensaries with there ridiculous prices and low quality products. Without the caregiver program many elderly and/or sick people will be unable to get the proper medicine for their treatment. The cannabis at the dispensary is too expensive and some of these people are not capable of traveling to these dispensaries themselves. Taking away our right to care for our elders is unacceptable and inhumane. Also allowing police to enter our homes for "compliance checks" is UNCONSTITUTIONAL. It is a direct violation of our rights. There is no probable cause for a search. We are law abiding citizens until proven otherwise by a court of law. This bill would violate our right to due process by allowing law enforcement to barge into our homes at their discretion with no proof of wrong doing or probable cause just to make sure we aren't growing too many plants. Read that last line again. They are plants... put here by God to heal us. This gives the police free license to harrass our medical marijuana patients many of whom are elderly and very sick. This bill is unacceptable as is. We the people will not stand for unconstitutional and illegal acts of tyranny. Also in Hawaii we have a housing crisis. We often have multiple generations and/or renters on the same property. Allowing only two medical licenses per address is unacceptable. This bill is clearly written for the dispensaries benefit and the states benefit (taxes) and not for the patients. We know our representatives are taking handouts and bribes they always have been. I ask the representatives to Prove me wrong and Vote no on this bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:57:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Be	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:57:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charmaine Avery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i oppose this bill

it is needed to remain for the kupuna

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:05:33 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Diviniste	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Mama Cannabis is the Ultimate Medicine, like Mama Banana Tree & Coconut Tree 🌴 & Ulu ❤️

Olease "Please" make it Easy for Oatients (Patients) to Grow & Use The MediVine. (medicine)

With Ultimate Respect for The Highest Good of All,

a Humble Servant,

Dawn Diviniste (Divine~I~Stay)

World Peace Now



HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:06:34 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary John Kissinger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do NOT support this Bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:12:33 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Abbett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill because it harms patients who require assistance and caregiving and eliminates individuals rights to participate in an agricultural activity that could also provide economic benefit to impoverished local communities. How unfair and high handed.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:14:34 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judiah McRoberts	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Members of the Hawaii Senate,

I strongly oppose this bill. The majority of the proposed provisions will harm medical patients. The language pushing the sunset date for ending the caregiver program should be removed. The new restrictions to cards per “grow site” should also be removed in addition to the revised language in regard to the enforcement of grow site compliance.

HB477 should also honor the original dispensary bill by offering additional dispensary licenses. The current system is essentially a monopoly and in the case of Kauai it is by definition is a monopoly. Additional licenses would increase access and competition in the marketplace which will benefit patients which is what the bill’s focus should be on.

Act 241 (HB 321 CD1), the original “dispensary bill” states:

“(j) Notwithstanding subsection (d), the department shall determine whether, based on the qualifying patient need, additional dispensary licenses shall be offered to qualified applicants in the State after October 1, 2017; provided that the department shall make available not more than one license per five hundred qualifying patients residing in any single county.”

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:29:27 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley koga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Greetings,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB477.

Not allowing caregivers is bad enough, as many cannot cultivate their own medicine and would be forced to spend more money than someone that grows their own medicine or obtains it from a caregiver, at a dispensary. This is an economic discrimination that is cruel and unjustified-- illness knows nor cares about economic status. Just because a person that gets sick, should not be a potential reason for taking on the additional financial burden of obtaining medicine from a dispensary, or worse, from a source outside of the legal framework, where quality and contamination issues are not addressed. Further more, the growth and cultivation of medicinal cannabis is no easy task! It takes a lot of daily labor and know-how and is not something just anyone can do, let alone do well.

Not allowing more than 2 patients per household is, again, gong to effect many, many patients that live in multi-generational households, which is very common here in Hawaii. Additionally, illness and disease are often times genetic or lifestyle related, thus this restriction would unfairly target patients merely because they happen to live at home (or a home) that they were born into and/or were raised in. Raised in what may have been a household where the habits of a healthy diet, proper nutrition, regular healthcare visits and exercise were not properly fostered.

Finally, applying and paying for a Medical card should not be a blanket waiver leading to unreasonable searches. The ability to inspect/search someone's grow sight, with proper reason, already exists-- as long as there is enough suspicion and or evidence that a grower is abusing the priveledge by, lets say, selling illicitly to non-card holders. But to just leave the door open to the ever-changing moods and whims of law enforcement is unconstitutional, especially in our current enviornment of nation-wide police overreach and excesssive use of powers.

The law as it was originaly created, although not perfect, is fine as it is. One would wonder why our state leaders would want to unduly further restrict Medical cannabis patients from access to their medicine at an affordable cost, while at the same time

crafting potential legislation that would drive increased sales towards dispensaries and the illicit market place.

You all better do better. We will be watching and voting.

Sincerely, Stan Koga

Kapaa, Kauai

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:34:16 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tre auna thomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will stop us from growing our own marijuana. Due to very high taxes and prices on medical marijuana makes it hard to buy from dispensary's. It really helps that I can grow my own medicine at my home. If you stop this it will be harder for people to get the medicine they need.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:35:44 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caitlyn Medvetz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:38:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Watson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the oportunity to testify on HB477 HD2.

I oppose this bill on the grounds that a primary caregiver should be permitted to cultivate cannabis on behalf of a qualifying individual.

Mahalo

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:45:04 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Popoalii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose HB477! Grow sites are very important to patients and many of us patients don't want to go to a dispensary! I personally don't believe in these dispensaries so please leave grow sites alone, limiting the number of patients a grow site can handle hurts patients!

Sincerely, Darlene Popoalii

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:45:39 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Chance	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill and hope it will be completely tabled forever. In times like these, we can't have the sick unable to access their medicine via caregivers.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:50:43 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Sara Steiner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this. Hawaii has been messing around with those who have their medical cards. It's appalling that we are given an option to have a medical card for diagnosed medical issues , but yet the state/county makes it completely as hard as possible for us to grow our own medicine ! Why would they take away our caretakers ? It makes no sense . Please don't do this to us. There must be money to be made I'm guessing , so ofcourse , the ones in power don't care much about us humans who are suffering and need this medicine for our health. We need to wake up. It's 2021. Aloha.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:52:09 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doris McGowan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha ... Here is my testimony on HB477. I am 74 years old. I live on my \$750 a month social security along with the help of quest. I am not in a good financial situation, but because of the help I get from the state I can survive and be happy. I was diagnosed with cancer in 2013 ... non hodgkins lymphoma that had metastasized in my left hip and femur. Here I am now with a leg shorter, a limp and hip pain along with nerve pain and an anxious mental condition, one can get after years of the chemo drugs and painkillers. I don't take painkillers and completely rely on cannabis for pain and stress relief. I have been thankful that a friend who has been my caregiver and is able to grow my medicine to help me get through my life.

Please don't take that away!

I know the state is suffering a economic crunch, but this isn't the way ... too many of us will suffer the consequences. Please sit in ALOHA and consider different ways to get us back on our feet. Remember to look deeply and don't allow egoic thoughts and fear take over where we need COMPASSION ... We are thee aloha mindfulness state ... all the country is looking at us ... please do the right thing ... Be PONO

Thank you, Doris (Iris) McGowan

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:07:18 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:24:58 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Limarisa Rivera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a Medical Cannabis Patient this state sponsored program has been essential for my health, life and family. This bill will impact all of the above. Mahalo Plenty for providing this avenue for citizens to let their voices be heard.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:27:29 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Lee Heisel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha. Many of us cannot afford the prices at the dispensaries. Many of us are unable to grow our own at our residences and rely on care-givers to grow for us. I have not heard of any damages or any jeopardy caused by the current standards. What harm has been done? It appears the "reforms" in this bill are aimed to protect vested interests. The only consideration should be for the common health. Limiting access limits the common health. Again we ask, what harm has been done that needs to be addressed?

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:35:22 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Matano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this Bill!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:46:02 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Braley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:07:26 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine DeCosta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a medical cannabis patient on a fixed income. I find value in being able to have my cannabis grown by a trusted caregiver. This bill takes away caregivers and leaves patients to either fend for themselves or pay dispensary prices. Also this bill gives dispensaries a bunch of rights that patients don't get! Dispensaries have a value in our community but not as a monopoly. For patients who want access to their growers this bill is not the right fit. I thank you for hearing my voice and hope you can find agreement that patients needs matter more than profit.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:19:19 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KawikaC	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to the fact several card holders have no place to grow and need caregivers to grow their medicine. Forcing cardholders to buy inferior, overpriced medicine will create hardships for many cardholders who have no place to grow. It will impact them financially and medically.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:21:02 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Walters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Michael Walters, am voicing my opposition to HB477. I believe it is not in the best interest of patients to limit our ability to obtain cannabis or cannabis products. Care givers should be allowed to cultivate cannabis for their patients.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:32:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen Huber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Allen Huber

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

Allowing 10 permits per grow site allows an economy of scale that reduces costs to members of the grow.

We have 7 disabled patients in the 10 permits that we are growing for. I do not know where their needs would be legally and affordably met under this bill.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing

from you soon.

Sincerely,
Allen Huber

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:36:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Taber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE! As a fully insured patient on Moku o Keawe that is UNABLE to obtain a Primary PCP on this island as NO drs are accepting new patients, I RELY on my caregiver/grower for my pain medication, which is legal medical grade marijuana. I also can't afford ridiculous corporate greed dispensaries, no one can unless they are wealthy. I am also NOT able to get pain medications to treat my osteoarthritis throughout my body and also spinal stenosis, which affects my legs and I am almost immobile without absolute assistance to basic needs such as using the bathroom, moving from chair to chair or basic household duties... PLEASE I OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:41:45 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mical mesot	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would severely impact my and my fellow veterans and the support team's quality of life. As well as remove the wonderful care we have access to for our combat-related disabilities.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:43:13 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crhis Norman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS By
Your Name

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure. I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons: 1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis. 2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

The medical dispensaries have been given a monopoly position with ruthless prices. Medicine only for the rich?

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely, [NAME/TITLE/INSTITUTION]

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS
By Karla Joffs

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.
3. My personal experience: My household has more than 2 generations here with a card each, they need access to more than two plants per grow site. What will happen to them? What about the households with 3 generations or more everyone I know here in Hawaii has multigenerational households. Why change they system, if it isn't broken, it has been working great. The experience with the dispensary is not desirable, it is too expensive for our household and not of good quality, we can grow better for less money. The caretaker program removed or ended will destroy a lot of people. The changes are not fair, This change will make it harder when it is already really expensive to live here in Hawaii, what about the Hawaiians that have been born and raised here? We also need access to an affordable medical cannabis, You are forcing us to use a medical program with synthetic drugs instead of medical Cannabis or to greatly reduce the amount of medical cannabis we use on a daily basis, just to survive. To suggest the use of synthetic drugs which this bill will force more to use or that it is preferred and/or forced upon the people is discriminatory and greedy, just for the government/state/you to line your pockets with one more way to get rich and let the little people suffer. How about some compassion for those with medical issues? We the people need the program to stay the same not push up a timeline we didn't vote for, a whole two years early? What prompted that, not making money off of tourist because of covid? If anything, We The Kauai People want the program to stay the way it is now, not change

at all, let alone two years early. Note, we do vote and will remember how you voted in the future.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Karla Joffs

--

Thank You,

Karla Joffs
801-884-3900

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:08:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Tippens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill for many reasons to include: the elimination of caregivers, the expansion of dispensary rights despite failure to open the industry to the community, the violation of patient medical privacy it will create and the burdens it places upon our sickest and most medically affected community members; specifically the elderly and very young who do not have the ability to grow their own cannabis and also have the most limited funds to purchase cannabis. Passing this bill will mean these people would be forced to choose between paying for other necessities and suffering without their medical cannabis or having enough cannabis to deal with their medical condition but failing to meet some other need.

When looking at the affect this bill will have on patients, this bill is malicious. If enacted, this bill forces patients to buy their medical cannabis if they cannot grow for themselves, without any of the financial assistance options provided to those who choose pharmaceutical options to address their medical conditions.

This bill only benefits current dispensaries. It does so by providing additional grow entitlements to the STILL only 8 dispensary license holders while taking away well established rights from patients and STILL failing to open the licensure of dispensaries to additional interested people in our communities. It is inappropriate to provide additional grow opportunities to the current few holding dispensary licenses under the guise of inadequate supply when the opportunity to hold a license and provide this service has not been opened up to the rest of the community. The many people interested and able to open additional dispensaries can meet the demand while also increasing patients options and creating business/financial/employment opportunities for our economically crippled state. Opening up dispensary licensure to the rest of the community was promised years ago, is long overdue and will allow interested community members to open dispensaries and fill the recognized gap in supply and demand the limited industry is encountering. The experts in the cannabis industry advised this supply shortfall was imminent in 2015, the legislature should listen to our advise on how to fix it and open the industry up to the community instead of creating an effective monopoly for the few current license holders.

This bill also allows the police to come do "compliance checks" and entrap patients into being prosecuted for what they believe to be legal participation in the medical marijuana program. This is because the current medical marijuana law is written in a way that

attempts to disqualify a patient from legal protection if the patient is found to be non-compliant. This forces patients to have to grow for themselves, learn an entirely new skillset and develop an entire grow system that is in full compliance at every stage, all while trying to deal with the conditions that made them qualify for the program to start with and trying to understand and comply with the parameters of the marijuana program; all this and STILL having no legal way to obtain seeds, starters, clones at any age or an adult plant from ANYWHERE. Meanwhile, if a patient plants a single extra seed that patient runs the risk of being criminally prosecuted for what they believed was protected participation in the marijuana patient registration program.

This flys directly in the face of the stated purpose causing the medical marijuana program's move to the Department of Health from the Department of Public Safety: patients' status regarding medical marijuana is protected medical information. To create law that now allows police open access to this information is violating that privacy, which is a violation of well precedented legal opinion and why the program was moved (to protect patient privacy).

I oppose this bill and you should too.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:57:43 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Richard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose HB477. We are already limited by how we can access and safely get our medicine. My 75 year old mother in law cannot afford her medicine at the dispensary and is not capable of growing her own. Being her caretaker is her only access to safe and legal medicine. Please do not give more power to the few bog companies, futher hurting the everyday medical marijuana patient. Please hear the people and vote no. Mahalo.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:03:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kaniho giminiz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha. I'm against this bill. Please don't allow it to pass. It's already expensive for someone who does not have access to a caretaker and has to utilize the dispensary. To take the option away would literally force upon everyone who "doesn't know how to cultivate" cannabis to have to purchase it from the dispensary and although good for the state, is not good for everyone who is not able to afford it. A suggestion could be to allow health insurance companies to cover; which is an example of a idea that could make it more beneficial to the whole. Mahalo for your time.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:13:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmen Ka'ana'ana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a bogus and transparent benefit for corporations over people created by prostitute-politicians and is an unconstitutional violation of the right to an unreasonable search.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:15:09 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Clark	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Regarding HB 477, I strongly oppose. The part that renders my most vehement opposition is regarding caregivers unable to cultivate plants for card holders. Are you aware that some card holders are physically unable to grow due to various disabilities. By preventing caregivers from cultivation, you are preventing a disabled person from partaking within the legal limits of this law. Some are unable to get to a dispensary or may need a strain unavailable in a dispensary. Strains are very specific in their effects. What works, works. Another part of this law is discriminatory toward the multigenerational living that is apparent in Hawaii. Or that sometimes you have to live with roommates to survive economically. Limiting the number of 329 cardholders in a household is a blatant disregard for the living conditions in Hawaii. Please do the right thing and oppose. Legalized cannabis is a good thing in Hawaii. Don't make it harder for those who participate.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:17:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rex Palmer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is a bad bill and not needed. It specifically targets local extended families and authorizes inspections and searches on private property, something only a legal warrant from a court can authorize. This makes the bill unconstitutional. Why mess with a medical cannabis system that is working just fine. The authors of this proposed bill want to create legal intimidation around patients growing their own medicine. If the high priced cannabis at dispensaries is the only thing available most patients won't be able to use it as medicine. This will result in a lot more illegal growing and more local people in jail. Furthermore, when all the west coast is fully legal, why would Hawaii go in the opposite direction? The idea that home growing is somehow out of control is just the same old fear of weed that resulted in the failed war on drugs and ruined thousands of people's lives. And why pick on registered patients that are trying to grow legally, when there are hundreds of completely illegal grows all over being done by people who don't care at all about the law? Is the idea that because patients are registered they are easy pickings for those who actually would like to see all marijuana users incarcerated? This bill helps no one but black market criminals who will find business booming if this is passed. The authors of this bill are addicted to hating marijuana and they can't quit!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:39:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alex marten	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to the unfair control of medical grown products by big money investors . Quantity of grown products will bring quality of products for the population of Hawaii as well as increased taxabl income not dependent on the couple dispensary's with existing licenses .

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:04:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sydney griese	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:25:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert brower	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

this Bill, orighanlly with good intent, has been ruined by financial interests in its second writing. The care giver clause, 2 patients per grow site, and compliance clause is intended to force patients to use the dispensary, which charges \$20 per gram. Particularly in a time of economic hardship, this is not right. Mahalo for reading.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:08:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor L. Dolfi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill, specifically the section 'removing caretaker abilities' and 'limiting number of cards per property' is unreasonable and will be detrimental to our state. This will force many people to have to buy from dispensaries instead of providing for themselves. The dispensaries are overpriced/unaffordable. This is appalling and unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Taylor Dolfi

03/17/2021

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:27:47 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgina Mckinley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:35:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph J Crocona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the HTH/CPN committee:

I am giving written testimony today to voice my opposition to HB477 HD2. I am a citizen of the state of Hawai'i, and a veteran of the Vietnam War. I am a 74 year old that has suffered from neuropathy and arthritis, having found relief from my pain and stiffness through the use of Cannabis. I have been a legally resitered medical Cannabis patient for many years.

HB477 would take away my care givers ability to help me continue my Cannabis therapy, because it would severely limit his growing activities. The many provisions of the bill would cause unnecessary disruption to mine and my wife's therapy, not to mention extra expense to us living on a fixed income. I ask that you please let this bill die not passing out of your committee.

Mahalo for your time respectfully yours

Joseph J Crocona

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:40:46 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Quel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:48:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Chris Town	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a 77 year old retired Hawaii educational officer. I benefit from cannabis as an effective medicine for my arthritis and a neurological condition. Among other aspects of this bill, I am especially troubled by the wording about compliance checks in the bill, as it reads as if getting a cannabis card amounts to waiving the essential liberty to be secure from unreasonable search.

Please honor our privacy and don't fix something that's not broken.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:59:46 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cassandra winston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I disagree with getting rid of the caregiver program, this will be crippling for many patients who can't grow their own medicine and can't afford dispensary prices. Also limiting to 2 card holders per property will harm many patients who rely on others.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:16:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jacob yadao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill will affect the people who need the caregivers because they need they're medicine for free rather than go pay for the medicine from a dispensary that their caregiver can grow for them.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:16:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Shope	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB477 HD2

Will be illegal

.Inspection is a search, without a warrant .Without illegal activity. On my personal home

This will be taken to court!

US constituion PLEASE READ IT!

This bill is does not help legal patients in any way

ONLY HURTS US!

Taking away my rights is not helpfull.

This bill is wrong in so many more ways.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:35:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Might	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:40:25 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaitlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii would benefit off of marijuana being legal in so many ways, tax breaks aswell as using the money for our county

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:55:28 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Fretz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a horrible use! Who comes up with these??? Clearly people out of touch with society and outdated ideas on cannabis use.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:20:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donn viviani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I am a 329 patient. I am wealthy and can afford to purchase my medicine at a dispensary. This bill is discriminatory. It creates two classes of your constituents. On one side, are those who can afford dispensary medicine, i.e., the wealthy, together with those who have land available and are physically capable of growing their medicine... and on the other side of this divide are those who can't afford dispensary medicine, and do not have the land and ability to grow their medicine. This bill prohibits caregivers from helping your constituents who cannot grow their own, e.g., kupuna, the infirm. It limits sites to two growers. Land is at a premium, not everyone has a garden, many residences are multigenerational, without cooperative grow sites many of your constituents would lose access to their medicine. Finally, having law enforcement inspect grow sites is also discriminatory, unless law enforcement also starts inspecting restaurant kitchens or building violations, etc. Please do not pass this bill

mahalo Donn Viviani Kailua

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:40:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Tucker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477 hd2

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:47:40 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal C Cohen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a healthcare provider, I am opposed to HB477. Patients and their caregivers benefit from the freedom to grow their cannabis.

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH and COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN—Cannabis Nurse

RE: HB477 (**In Opposition**)

Hearing: Friday, March 19, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Aloha Chairs and Vice Chairs: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker; Senator Stanley Chang and Honorable Members of the Committees,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani and I'm an RN. I have worked as a healthcare professional in Hawai'i for 28 years, acting as a medical cannabis patient advocate for 16 years. I lecture as a Cannabis Nurse Educator. I am an active member of the American Cannabis Nurses Association and Cannabis Nurses Network.

I served as an alternate member of the HCR48 Task Force in 2014 and on the Medical Marijuana Legislative Oversight Working Group (ACT 230) in 2016. We were tasked with developing recommendations for the establishment of a regulated statewide dispensary system for medical cannabis---which led to HB321 and ACT 241—the dispensary bill. I supported creating a dispensary system so that patients could have access to products that were tested and labeled. The dispensary system is supposed to work alongside the current, grow-your-own system not replace it.

As a medical cannabis patient advocate, I must OPPOSE HB477 as I feel it will be detrimental to thousands of patients, those who need a caregiver to grow for them or those who rely upon a collective grow site,'

I oppose:

- Prohibiting primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for a qualifying patient after December 31, 2021;
- Placing certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after December 31, 2021;
- Authorizing the department of health or law enforcement, upon the request of the department, to conduct administrative inspections of registered grow sites to ensure compliance with cannabis plant limits;

Prohibiting primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for a qualifying patient could cut off the supply of medicine to thousands of patients. DOH Registry program statistics show that 2,631 caregivers provide support for registered patients.

Exceptions must ALWAYS be made to allow for some primary caregiver-growers for those who cannot grow for themselves or have access to dispensaries. Examples include: patients who are children; the elderly; those who do not live on an island with a dispensary; those who live too far away to access dispensaries (**who are restricted from delivery services**) and those who cannot afford dispensary products.

I am **OPPOSED TO** placing certain **limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products**

Cannabis is not ONE medicine. There are over 6,000 varieties. Some patients need multiple types to address specific medical conditions. Some patients need products that are low in THC during the day or higher in THC at night. Some patients take months and years to find a variety that works well for them. Dispensaries may not carry the specific products that work for patients.

Requiring that patients purchase their medicines from a licensed dispensary is probably unconstitutional. It seems to me the equivalent of demanding that patients buy certain prescription medications from a CVS pharmacy. Many patients cannot afford dispensary medicines—which are expensive because of the massive over-regulation which makes production costly.

Patients who growing in collectives (MORE than 5 cards per property) are more likely to have access to the multiple medicines that work for them—on a continuous basis. Limiting patients to buying from dispensaries and prohibiting primary caregiver growers will create financial hardships.

I cannot support a bill that is **so potentially damaging** to a good portion of the more than 30,000 patients in the patient registry—those who have chosen to grow their own plants or need a caregiver or collective grow site to do so.

Most of all, I absolutely **OBJECT** to **authorizing Law enforcement assisted** administrative inspections of registered grow sites for the purposes of verifying compliance. Authorizing the department of health or law enforcement, upon the request of the department, to conduct administrative inspections of registered grow sites to ensure compliance with cannabis plant limits sounds good on paper, but is likely to be horrible in practice.

Multiple patients and grow sites have report past practices of law enforcement “inspections”. This usually means that a team of militarized, armed “Inspectors” show up for a SWAT-team style inspection. This is frightening to patients. The DOH will have to find better ways to conduct their inspections that do not include this style of inspection. This is not good for instilling trust in law enforcement and could lead to distrust of the DOH. Patients will be discouraged from registering for the program if they think there is a chance that the DOH will expose them to this kind of treatment.

In Hawaii, Cannabis is supposed to be recognized as a medicine. Patients are supposed to be treated as well as any other patient population. Allowing law enforcement to inspect a patient’s medicines is wrong. Law enforcement is not currently allowed to follow patients home from the pharmacy to count their pills to ensure they are in compliance with how much medicine they are allowed to have in their possession. And, they certainly should not be allowed to do it SWAT-team style.

If you limit the number of growers per grow site to no more than TWO in December 2021, you will effectively strip patients of protections from prosecution---by making their grow sites illegal. The Federal government (DOJ) is currently prohibited from spending money on enforcement that interferes with State implementation of laws authorizing the use of medical marijuana.

Restricting a patient (or caregiver's) ability to stack cards is contrary to the original INTENTION of the bill that authorized a medical cannabis program in Hawaii—which is to **improve patient access to quality medicines**. I fought hard to help pass HB321 (ACT241) to allow for a dispensary system in Hawaii. I did not do it so that dispensaries could plow down patient grow sites.

Patients and caregivers need to be able to continue to produce the quality medicines they know work for them and engage in the therapeutic process of gardening.

Patients can have their products lab-tested for purity and strength—just as dispensaries can—if they question the quality.

I am not opposed to dispensary licensees improving their services and increasing production. Please do not allow reducing patient access to their medicines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB477.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN, Cannabis Nurse Educator
Member: American Cannabis Nurses Association and Cannabis Nurses Network

Kailua

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:19:28 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Kan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:29:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sefesi Green	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the bill because it limits oppritunities to a select few. Co-ops give more people oppritunities to advance in the industry. The bill is either very short sighted in regards to the impending legal market or the bill is intended to push the "little guy" out of the way. Please do not pass.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:41:41 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Mrowczynski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly **OPPOSE** HB477 HD2 for the following reasons:

- This bill prohibits caregivers from growing cannabis starting December of 2021. This is absolutely ridiculous! I worked at one of the Oahu dispensaries for 1.5 years and I personally met and spoke with patients and caregivers every single day and listened to their personal stories. This is a much needed component of our industry for so many patients who cannot grow cannabis themselves due to their illness.
- This bill prohibits more than 2 qualifying patients from growing at one site. With multi-generational housing in Hawaii, this is unacceptable.
- This bill states that after December 31st, a qualifying patient can only obtain medical cannabis from a dispensary or cultivate it themselves. There are so many patients who cannot afford to buy their medicine from a dispensary or grow it themselves; thus we must provide another route for them to obtain safe cannabis.
- This bill clarifies the authority of the Department of Health, as well as law enforcement's authority, at the request of the Department of Health, to administratively inspect medical cannabis grow sites under this measure.
- This bill increases production sites for dispensaries from 2 to 4 and increases their retail facilities from 3 to 5. Only 3 of our 8 licenses have opened 3 retail locations, so why do they need more? They are nowhere near what they are currently allowed. Also, according to a new frontier study, only 5.2% of patients buy cannabis from dispensaries.
- This bill allows the dispensaries to wholesale to each other. This is not an issue as long as the cost is not a burden to the patients.
- We need to focus on PATIENTS and their needs over the PROFIT of the dispensaries in our local medical cannabis industry.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:45:06 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brandi bussell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposing bill HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:59:22 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis James Kea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This just allows the big cooperation to make more money, while us self sustainable living people us as a community have a harder time to support ourselves, we still should be able to grow cannabis and use it for medical purposes.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:26:45 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is Lois Brown and I oppose HB477 HD2, for the following reasons.

1. placing limits on where patients can obtain their medical marijuana will place an undue burden on most patients, who have their certain dispensary that they go to. It's close to their home. Restricting dispensaries could also be a hardship on those who are not mobile. Lastly, the wording of the bill is very vague. "Placing certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical marijuana..." What exactly are the "certain limits"?
2. Prohibiting primary caregivers from cultivating plants could put an undue hardship on patients who rely on their primary caregivers to grow their own supply, should they not be able to travel to the dispensary, or are financially strapped. Bad idea.Very Bad.

For those reasons stated above, I oppose HB477. Please kill this bill.

Mahalo and thank you for your time!

Lois Brown

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:21:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad M.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cannabis is medicine, and growing cannabis heals. The ability to grow isn't a luxury many people in Hawai'i have the space nor ability to do so. The people of Hawai'i deserve to have a better program that focuses on serving the community and providing access to medication. It only takes a little heart and business sense to see that this bill only protects and helps dispensary owners and takes away patients rights to grow. Whether it be the space, means, skill, or ability to grow their own medicine, this bill stops and prevents people from finding additional ways to grow their own medicine. Look at our economic layout, facts show majority of people don't have the ability to do so. Even our multigenerational households will not even be able to grow for themselves in their own homes for multiple members under this bill.

I have for the past 3 years had the opportunity to work with and be apart of one of these farms that helps have access to the space and ability to aid patients in growing their own medicine. I have seen some amazing things transpire because of the farm. Working there has not only been healing for me as a patient but seeing how my work and effort through the farm truly helps patients grow their own alternative medicine. From patients coming regularly to help in the field, to hearing family members cry from the pure joy and healing it has brought for their loved ones. To veterans who have served our country hoping to have access to their own cannabis over prescription medications. Seriously amputees pleading cannabis helps them more than the prescriptions drugs being pushed their way visit after visit. Saying without the farm and ability to affordably grow their own medicine they wouldn't be able to get anything but prescriptions for proven addictive narcotics covered through the VA. There are example after example that show this Bill does nothing to protect patients but take away people ability to access and grow this proven Medicine. Hawaii as a whole should be working on fixing our broken vertical system rather than implement changes that impede patient rights and purely protect current industry players. This bill is just one more example of why our system is failing and needs to be changed now rather than altered to protect investors interest over patients rights and bottom line the success of our states industry.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:31:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Kamita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support passage of House Bill 477 HD2 as is and agree with comments made by the Department of Health

Thank you

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:36:00 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sierra Vann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:46:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Pascua	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:38:51 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Montrice Canada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:19:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Delgado	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Although I believe there are some good things about this bill, there are many others that would become an issue with many local farmers/ care takers. I believe we can do a better job at presenting an equal way to allow all spectrums of business succeed. Making cannabis ilegal and a schedule 1 substance already has created social inequalities that needs major reparations. I urge you to please educate yourselves on the plant and the multiple facets it has. Continued additional policies and monopolies will create a wider gap in knowledgeable and sound studies. Thank you for your time and attention.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:21:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
spencer troutman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose due overstep on caregiver and patient limitations.

Aloha,

I am writing to you in opposition of bill HB477 in its current form. I have been a medical marijuana caregiver for almost 10 years. I grow medical cannabis for my 68 year old mother-in-law. She has many health issues that lead to chronic pain and trouble sleeping. We have spent years trying out different strains and methods to help her pain and general well-being. She lacks the space and knowledge to grow her own medicine. She cannot afford to go to a dispensary and do not have edible products strong enough for her. If the caregiver system is abolished this would devastate her and many other kupuna that rely on their caregiver.

Here are some of my personal views on HB477. I am all for the provision allowing dispensaries to sell product to each other. This will ensure stock for dispensaries in case of crop failure or product that does not pass testing. I am totally against the provision for ending the caregiver system at the end of 2021. This provision needs to be completely removed from the bill. There are thousands of patients who require care givers for various reasons. They should not phase out this system that has already been in place for 20 years. In my opinion this is a clear move to force people to buy from the dispensaries. As for the provision for DOH and law enforcement on doing compliance checks, this subject is vague and needs to be clarified. There are already compliances checks in place and as long as you remain within your plant count and tag your plants, you are in compliance. The provision increasing the number of production centers and dispensaries for the current 8 licenses needs to be amended. Revise the provision to allow for new dispensary licenses. The original dispensary bill signed into law in 2015, stated that by 2017, the department would re-evaluate the need for new licenses. If the department feels that there is now a need for additional facilities, they should honor the original provision and issue new licenses. New competition would drive prices down and increase selection and availability of products for patients. In addition, fees and dues from new licenses would increase funding for the state. This will not help the state generate new revenue if they increase facilities for the current 8 dispensaries. Let's put patients and caregivers rights first! As a caregiver I am able to provide medicine to my mother-in-law who cannot afford dispensary prices. Think of the people not the profits.

Mahlo,
Jerome Brynda

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:01:36 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Astilla	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't feel it is right to end the caregiver program in Dec. 2021. I would like to see the caregiver program expanded to allow caregivers to service multiple people indefinitely. This bill limits equitable access to the consumer by forcing them chose between dispensaries. This would create a stronger monopoly that the community does not want.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:02:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
noah norman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Noah Naia Norman

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice

Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara,

Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.

2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment

made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

the impact Bill HB 477 HD2 will destroy the ability for medical patients to rent a property to grow their medicine affordably. Currently there is a network of understanding land owners that provided space for rental on their property for individuals with medical cannabis card holders to grow and control their own medicine organically. With the one section::

(2) By cultivating cannabis in an amount that does not exceed an adequate supply for the qualifying patient, pursuant to section 329-122; provided that each location used to cultivate cannabis shall be used by no more than [five] two qualifying patients; and provided further that the department, or law enforcement upon the request of the department, may make administrative inspections of registered grow sites to verify compliance with the requirements of this chapter pursuant to authority under this chapter.

After December 31, [2023,] 2021, no primary caregiver shall be authorized to cultivate cannabis for any qualifying patient.

With this section in one sweep it takes away caregiver rights and cuts down the ability to grow for more than just the land owner. Effectively destroying our ability to rent spots to medical card holders that are unable to grow at they homes. This will force medical card holders to go back to purchasing from the black market or to go under medicated. Currently the dispensary is so over priced that what you could buy in the dispensary, at its cheapest option, will get you 4 to 6 times the amount from the black market of high quality illegally imported cannabis and dangerous illegal disruptors. Most cardholders are not land owners and any cardholder renting could be evicted for growing. Let alone those that simply do not have the space or skill it requires to grow their own medicine. Without the ability to rent another property it completely negates the ability to even grow their own. This portion of this legislation will take away the ability to provide access to affordable medicine for those even trying to be legal about it.

On a personal note, most people already laugh in the face of the dispensary because they are so insanely priced. A good portion of people just buy from black market dealers that get pounds shipped in from either California, Washington or Oregon. The band of land owners putting their mortgages on the line are still getting out priced by the illegal importers. Thousands of pounds are imported year in individual flat rate boxes though the year and at prices like \$80 an ounce. While in the dispensary it goes for \$400+. The best private individual growers here have to be really good to even have product that will entice Cardholders to signs a lease and trust that you will provide a space capable of producing such product.

We private growers just want a way to grow for our own family. In my dads house alone we have my father, his wife, my borther, my wife and myself. With them reducing

the limit down to 2 cardholders it won't even cover the usage of my family. Please, I beg you to help stop this bill.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely, Noah Naia Norman

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:15:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Crook	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Tyler Crook

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the current draft of HB477 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

I believe that if the Department of Health would like to expand access to medical patients, they should implement a horizontal licensing structure that would allow residents to enter the medical cannabis market. The people of Hawai'i have been growing their own cannabis under the current medical program for over 20 years. I urge you to give them a way to join our medical cannabis program, allowing for current (and future) dispensaries to purchase cannabis products produced by small craft farms and small manufacturing businesses. This would increase the variety of products available. We have lost so many small businesses over the course of COVID-19. This

would be an economic stimulus that our islands desperately need. I urge you to examine the current laws in the State of Oklahoma that allows residents to function within their medical cannabis program. Please help our islands thrive.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Crook

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:22:52 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Christie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

@@@

Dear Legislators, aloha.

I strongly OPPOSE HB477. If you were really sick and poor and needed Cannabis lovingly grown by your family or a good friend to reduce your pain or to save your life you would oppose this bill, too.

We, the long suffering people of Hawai'i need a lot more access to Cannabis to satisfy our natural need for cannabinoids for homeostasis, or optimum and balanced well being. We've been starved of the safe, natural, sustainable and proven plant nutrition and remedy for decades resulting in poverty, meth, crime, corruption, toxic substitutes, court and prison overcrowding, etc., etc. Hawai'i's legislative policies concerning Cannabis hemp have all too often been extinctionistic and the terrible results speak for themselves. Don't just loosen the choke chain of prohibition on our necks - remove it once and for all.

Humans have used Cannabis to commune with God and to feel healthy and good about ourselves since time began.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cannabis-found-altar-ancient-israeli-shrine-180975016/>

Thai hospitals are now serving Cannabis in foods for their patients with great, happy results.

<https://curlytales.com/thai-hospital-serves-food-with-cannabis-like-sandwich-with-marijuana-leaf/>

Please kill this regressive bill and let freedom ring! If you do there will be a sigh of relief throughout the land. Thank you.

Roger Christie

Hilo

@@@

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:26:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Kline	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I firmly believe in God given rights to access the Medicine of the Aina.

I see outstanding reason to protect the right to be legally protected in the act of CAREGIVING Cannabis crops in the stead of someone who iz unable to.

I see logic & economical reason for keeping an open number of Prescriptionz to be cultivated in one facility - where the plant huzbandry can be tended to in full focus.

I disagree with the idea of promoting only commercial production & access to ALL CROPS - especially medicinal.

Malama pono.

Mahalo

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:43:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chrissie Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

To: Senate HTH Committee Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair), Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Kurt Fevella, Senate CPN Committee Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Stanley Chang (Vice Chair), Bennette E. Misalucha, Clarence K. Nishihara, Gil Riviere

From: Chrissie Brown

Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this measure.

I OPPOSE the HB477 HD2 as it stands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendment to limit the number of Plants per grow site to two cards. This does not support multigenerational households or any household with more than two registered patients. In addition, this would only increase the workload for the DOH related to compliance checks if patients were forced into other locations in order to grow cannabis.
2. The current draft of HB477 will abruptly end the Caretaker Program that has been in place for over 20 years on 12/31/21. This moves up the provision in the current medical law to sunset the caregiver program by two years. I would like to see an amendment made that would instead protect the caregiver system indefinitely. Caregivers offer patients a unique and fully customized way to attain the cannabis medicine that works the best for them. The inability, for any reason, of a patient to grow their own cannabis should not force them into purchasing only from a licensed medical dispensary.

The creation of the medical cannabis program in Hawaii originated and has functioned within the home grow and caregiver system successfully for over twenty years. These rules developed a large population of very skillful cannabis farmers. It is my opinion that if the Dept. of Health truly sees a need to expand the Medical Dispensary program, there are better serving and more inclusive ways than the ones suggested by HB477. In the post Covid-19 world we are living in Hawaii needs opportunity for job creation that will allow residents to contribute to the medical cannabis market in a safe, socially distanced way. Instead of expanding the current dispensary licenses, the 329d program

should be amended to create a horizontal licensing structure that would allow Hawaii's unique population of expert cannabis farmers to obtain licenses for selling to the dispensaries. This would create more jobs, tax revenue, and stop the exclusion of residents from entering the market.

Further, removing the caregiver system and forcing any patient who cannot, for any reason, grow their own cannabis to purchase from a dispensary feels like a discriminatory stance. Cannabis is not a one size fits all and while the dispensaries aim to provide a wide array of options, the simple fact is that many patients stand to lose access to strains of cannabis that have worked for them.

Please oppose HB 477. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Chrissie Brown

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:10:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Hideo Takano	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writting this comment/testimony towards Bill HB 477, about caregivers, given permission to grow medical Cannabis for their elderly patients. We as old and frail, medical conditons preventing some of us to go outside to garden, to grow our own medical Cannabis plants for ourselves and to daily maintain growth of plants/cariing for them. So we need our caregivers to accomplish that for us.,Also because we have mutligenerations in family household, it's important that the caregivers given permission to grow for more than 2 patientsin households.. Another concern is about the increase production sites for dipensaries from 2 to 4, and increase the retail facilities from 3 to 5. More retail outlets are important for the elderly to have access to them, for easy traveling. I hope whoever will vote on this important Bill, for us, patients,our future livelyhood is in ur vote. I hope the right thing will be done for those people ,who need vital help to live our remaining life, more comfortable. Thank You and Mahalo , Dave Takano, born, raised, and living on Oahu, for 62 years.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:04:15 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Bunnell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Tiffany Bunnell and I am writing to oppose HB477. The caregiver program has been very helpful to me as growing my own cannabis at home is vital to my use of medical marijuana. I live in a multigenerational home where several of us have our 329 card. This bill doesn't make any sense, knowing how a lot of families live on this island. If this bill passes, it will greatly effect my life in a negative way.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:54:17 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah R Dominici	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:35:32 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jael Esther Simonson Tunick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I never thought I'd be able to live my life without opioids, but this month makes 3 years of living opioid free. None of it would have happened without medical marijuana. I knew my health issues would be improved once I got my Medical Marijuana card, but I was wrong--it was growing at Waialua farm that saved me. The dispensaries never accommodated my extensive needs, and I found myself still living week to week in pain.

Once I was able to work with a farm on my growing needs, I finally got my life back. I was able to finally have access to the strength of medicine I needed, and it was the large supply I needed to have control of my life again. Without farms that allow multiple patients to grow and connect to the medicinal options they need, patients like me will continue to suffer.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 6:41:01 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Garcia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This measure seems to only benefit big business and seeks to limit the small individual from freedom to practice and cultivate their own plant/ medicine. This is medicine is meant for healing and personal use. This medicine is not meant to serve as a cash crop for corporations and government taxation if they mean to take away peoples personal right of practice and use. An individual who has followed all state guidelines and is within compliance of current policy should have the right to practice how they see fit and no law should be created to obstruct that right.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:13:57 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Wilkinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:20:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu now residing in Māhili'ili in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in opposition of HB477.

Only 3 or 8 licensees have used their current allotment for retail. According to a new frontier study only 5.2% of patients buy cannabis from dispensaries. The cost according to DOH this program will cost them \$295,000 a year who is going to pay for that? Caregivers, provide cannabis for some of the most vulnerable patients in Hawai'i stopping this now is the wrong time.

Oppose HB477.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:44:10 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Eisenstein	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this because it will prohibit primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for a qualifying patient after December 31, 2021. This is ridiculous. Marijuana is not plutonium. It's a beneficial plant. This plant is safe for consumption. Please legislate accordingly. Please resist the urge to over-regulate.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:57:50 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Rogers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't take caregivers away from patients! We need them and dispensary too!

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 477 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO CANNABIS

By Jason Hanley

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Friday, March 19, 2021; 9:30 AM State Capitol, Videoconference

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed amendment to section 329-130(a) to limit the number of Plants per grow. I do not have the space or security at my place of residence to successfully grow my own medicine. My current grow site is at a designated agriculture lot and has many growers on it.

Many patients on the site use flower for cancer, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, post traumatic stress disorder, etc. We know first hand where our medicine comes from because we grow it ourselves. By limiting people's freedom to grow together, you effectively put people into a position where they must purchase medicine at a premium price (\$400.00-\$500.00 an ounce) from a dispensary. Other states with medical cannabis charge an average of \$250.00 an ounce. That means that Oahu dispensaries are charging almost twice as much as normal for medical cannabis. This is unaffordable to patients.

DOH has submitted in testimony that by limiting the amount of cards per site will decrease the plant count resulting in a decrease in smell. Plenty of grow sites in the state are not near residential areas and take place on agricultural land, so this is a non-issue in those cases. Furthermore, the Department of Health has not provided any data that captures public preferences on the smell of cannabis plants. Simply receiving smell complaints does not account for the percentage of residents that enjoy the smell of plants. Further data should be collected to address this concern and offer reasonable solutions. It is also unfortunate that Hawaii's Department of Health would prioritize some people's "enjoyment of their properties" over others' access to life-changing medicine that they cultivate and enjoy on their legally controlled properties.

Regarding the testimony that "More than twenty (20) plants to be grown at a single site and will address existing large, unregulated cultivation sites. There are currently 98 sites that are registered to between 5-30 patients which could maintain 50-300 plants and at least one site registered to 409 patients, a potential of 4,090 plants. According to patient registry data as of January 31, 2021, this limitation will impact only about 12% of registered patients."

Collaborative grow sites offer the benefits of things like: a secure location with fences and 24-hour security; sharing of resources such as a greenhouse to grow in, soil, and clean water; protocols for safe and clean medicine; education on how to grow, harvest and cure. Working together gives people a chance to have so much more than just visiting a dispensary to buy medicine. It's healing and empowering on multiple levels.

DOH claims that these type of sites are unregulated, but our site has been visited by both DOH and law enforcement repeatedly. It takes the inspectors no time at all to check plant labels and verify compliance of the grow site.

If the DOH is reporting 12% of registered cardholders include sites more than 5 people at a site, then there are approximately 2,400 card holders that would lose their rights to grow at their current site. This is a substantial portion of cardholders and could disproportionately affect people at economic disadvantages or those in rural areas.

Limiting 20 plants to a site, or two cards to a site, will only increase the compliance load for the DOH. If a site that has 400 cards must be divided into 200 sites by this proposed legislation, then DOH will have 199 more compliance checks to do. Plant tracking systems like BioTrack, which is mandated for use by dispensaries, could be implemented at any sized grow site to improve regulation. They could expedite compliance checks by allowing DOH to walk through a greenhouse using a scanner to quickly identify 329 card compliance in a computer system. The software costs about \$500 a month. In order to make sure everyone is in compliance, our site is already using this type of system. One person out of compliance could affect everyone's rights to grow. It's a simple way to make sure everyone has their plants tagged and up to date.

Regarding "DOH has received ongoing and numerous complaints from both patients and the public regarding uncontrolled cultivations under the guise of home cultivation. These include: patients reporting that they felt coerced into signing their "growing rights" over to collectives; medical providers reporting that "growers" were soliciting patients outside their office offering to reimburse patients for the cost of their medical use certification in exchange for their "growing rights;" patients without designated caregivers being asked to provide "growers" with their driver's license." It is the responsibility of the 329 cardholder to manage their card and obey the law. As a 329 cardholder, I have the ability to change my grow site at any given time through the DOH. The DOH has not provided any data showing numbers or trends for the above complaint in regards to coercion. If you must control the property where you grow as required by law, it's not surprising that landowners would require a driver's license or other form of ID to sign a lease. I suspect that overall abuse alluded to by DOH is rather low because most 329 card holders take their right to grow seriously. Cardholders realize that if they break the laws of the 329 card, they will lose their rights to grow.

Now I will follow up with the use of law enforcement to conduct compliance checks.

Working with law enforcement could be a reasonable solution to supporting more compliance check capacity. However, the state should develop specific protocols for how they take place. The line between narcotics investigations and compliance checks in Hawaii is not clear. Patients shouldn't be subject to threats or unprofessionalism from law enforcement staff, such as unwillingness to reveal their names or badges. Hawaii is a small community, and patients across the state have shared stories of very unorthodox interactions with law enforcement despite growing within the confines of the law as 329 cardholders.

A substantial portion of funding currently used for helicopter flyovers for enforcement of cannabis laws, which costs taxpayers an in the range of \$1500/hour, could be redirected to the DOH or law enforcement staff hours to support compliance checks in coordination with DOH through their patient database. Currently, law enforcement is looking for grow sites through flyovers within residential and rural areas with no apparent engagement with DOH. Law enforcement uses a search-first, no-knock approach, invading people's privacy despite their legal, registered cardholder status. It's important to remember that people seeking relief from medical cannabis may suffer to a greater degree than the average healthy person from these types of interactions. There is no excuse for people who choose to cultivate without securing a license to do so. However the tactics for enforcement, in a state with a licensed medical cannabis program, are inappropriate and due for evaluation.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Hawaii has a long history of agricultural monopolies that serve to benefit few people with ample means. We have an opportunity to build a thriving cannabis program in the state that serves communities, provides thousands of local jobs, and builds state revenue. Cannabis offers Hawaii a chance to serve as a model crop for a new era of agriculture that benefits the local people of Hawaii. Taking away individual rights to grow cannabis is a step in the wrong direction.

Mahalo!

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:40:17 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Simmons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Eliminating the caregiver program at the end of this year will negatively impact many patients who are unable to grow for themselves. Also capping the card count to 2 cards only per residence will prevent multi generation household patients from being able to provide their own medicine. Prices at the dispensary are 300.00 to 500.00 plus for 1 oz of medicine. A patient can grow their own cure for around 1.00 an oz. Many folks will be unable to afford dispensary prices if forced to buy from them instead of relying on a caregiver. Thank you for your time and consideration. Andrew

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:44:39 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Hibbitt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cannabis has been helpful to those patients who are suffering chronic pain from paralysis, seizure disorders, cancer and other debilitacomditions mentioned on DOH's website. These patient groups rely primarily to caregivers. Their conditions prevent them from driving to dispensary especially when you have uncontrollable seizures, severe anxiety due to PTSD, you are paralyzed, you suffer from side effects from your cancer treatment or even just unable to get out from bed due to pain. Despite cannabis being an effective treatment to alleviate the discomfort and symptoms from their condition, we cannot hide the fact that this modality is very expensive. I know many patients who stopped going to dispensary due to cost and having 3 plant's grown at home with the help of their caregiver has been significantly helpful in manging their symptoms. Removing caregiver's ability to grow on behalf of the patient means removing patient's opportunity to feel better.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:07:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samuel C Bonanno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Bill HB477 violates our rights as medical patients.

The limitations created by bill HB477 make it impossible to satisfy both of my parents and my legitimate medical cannabis needs. Two areas where this proposed bill ***infringes on medical patient rights*** are the new restrictions on the number of patients per caregiver and the number of plants allowed per household.

Under proposed bill HB477 My family would not be able to grow medical cannabis for *both* of my parents and myself due to the restriction on the number of patients a caregiver can claim and the number of plants per household.

My parents are in their 70's and cannot alone grow and cultivate cannabis due to the very real physical demands of cultivating cannabis and the seriousness of the health conditions which can debilitate the patient.

The *proposed bill HB477* limiting the number of plants per household to 20 also **fails to protect patients** from plant loss due to a variety of naturally occurring problems like molds, pests and weather conditions. These problems can result in the loss of plants, portions of crops and entire crops. The restrictions on the number of plants to only 20 per household is not sufficient to guarantee that we meet the medical needs of our family and infringes upon patients rights.

Also related to the quantity of cannabis plants needed to meet patient needs is plant varieties. As a medical cannabis patient I personally have different medical needs than my father and mother who are also medical cannabis patients. There are 4 main types of cannabis plant and many variations shown to have a wide range of different medical applications. The number of plants required to produce adequate amounts of different varieties is significantly higher than this proposed legislation takes into consideration.

If bill HB477 passes we would file suit against the state for infringing on patients rights and for increasing restrictions for Hawaii's citizens.

As legalization continues **globally** the State of Hawaii needs to have ***less restrictions for medical patients*** in place, not more.

*Medical patients in California can have up to **99 plants per medical card**. We want to see less restrictions on patient and caregiver relationships so we can more consistently meet our medical needs.*

Thank you,

Samuel Bonanno

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:02:33 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Oesterblad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477 it is not in the best interest of the patients.

Sincerely, Eric Oesterblad

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:13:02 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Bacher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are not in New Jersey. Hawaii has allowed patients to grow their own, or appoint a caregiver since being the first state legislature to move forward with Medical Cannabis way back in 2000. If you want to help Licensed Producers like dispensaries, pass Adult Recreational Cannabis to expand safe and legal access to all adults, including tourists, and then revenues and tax revenues will increase significantly. Making caregivers criminals will not help struggling dispensaries, but will only increase legal challenges for patients and the State.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:26:42 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Kong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:29:34 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lono Makanani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Lono Waipuna Okalani kihapai I Makanani I live on the beautiful island of Kaua'i why I am writing this testimony is because I do not support the fact you wanna prohibit primary caregiver from cultivating cannabis for qualified patients after 12/31/21 and limit the number of cards that can be registered to a household or grow site to 2. First off growing up here my entire life ans generations after generations before the illegal occupation of Hawaii. Most of the locals live with at a minimum of 4+ adults and up in a household that is at least 4+ grown adults in a household limiting in to only 2 cards per household is wrong pls reconsider this bill and change the minimum to at the least 5 per household. Cannabis is my choice of medicine and I refuse to take pills, like everyone else I know we choose to follow the rules and be part of the MMJ program. I stand for what's right and do things with integrity and hope you guys will also. Please reconsider and oppose this bill it is in no way to help the people of Hawaii mind you how does it help old cancer patients or the people that are vulnerable and bed ridden or too sick to grow there medicine? We should be able to help each other farm medicine it is ludicrous to limit it to 2 I feel it should be at the least 5. Shame on you guys for all of this and please have some integrity and do the right thing. I and so many don't support this bill. Mahalo and Aloha Lono Makanani

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:22:00 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Roberts	Testifying for Big Island Booch Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I am a long time resident, an Organic farmer, and a business owner in Hilo,

I am firmly in opposition to this bill as it provides licence to further pollute our lands and seas through the use of extremely high input chemical farming. Indoor cannabis farming is absolutely not what Hawaii needs. This bill aims to limit access to outdoor organic cannabis in favor of dispensary grown cannabis. While we do support the medical cannabis movement, we feel that it is unacceptable to allow expansion of the industry, while also limiting access to the sickest of patients, many of whom are on fixed income, by removing the ability for them to have a caregiver and also limiting the cooperation of patients to create a cost-effective and environmentally responsible medicine .

We firmly appose this bill and will not vote for any representatives who are in support of this atrocity.

Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

TESTIMONY ON HB 477, HD 2

TO: Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, & Senate Health Committee
Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, & Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
DPFH Board President

DATE: March 19, 2021 (9:30 AM)

Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFH) is **opposed** to those provisions of HB 477, HD 2, that (1) accelerate the sunset date authorizing the production and distribution of medical cannabis by primary caregivers from December 31, 2023 to the end of this calendar year; (2) limits the number of plants a caregiver may cultivate for a patient; (3) limits the number of patients a care provider from five to two; and (4) authorizes law enforcement to "make administrative inspections of registered grow sites."

The Legislature should prioritize the interests of those patients who are better able to access needed medical cannabis through a care provider, including the elderly, disabled, those who live in rural areas, and those of little or no economic means.

The continued economic downturn due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has hit working families and those with limited incomes especially hard. **This bill will substantially worsen the situation of many elderly and rural patients by limiting and then precluding them from accessing needed medical cannabis from a care provider.** Many care providers are known to patients, can grow cultivars that work best for a given patient over time, and can provide delivery to those who have limited mobility due to disability or lack of adequate transportation.

Kupuna who are situated in rural areas of the state like Puna, Pāhala, Ocean View, Hāna and other areas on Maui not near Kahului, areas on Kaua'i not near Kapa'a, and even the Westside and North Shore of O'ahu would be placed at a significant disadvantage based solely on geography. Even with public transportation, which is limited on the Neighbor Islands, many kupuna are unable to get around their islands with ease.

When the limited economic means and chronic pain faced by many rural patients are also considered the restrictions provided for in this bill would effectively end their access to legal medical cannabis through a care provider at the end of this calendar year.

This kind of exclusion will provide an incentive for these impacted patients to allow their registrations to expire and participate in a shadow market totally beyond the purview of law, placing them at risk of arrest, prosecution, and incarceration.

The Department of Health (DOH) should have adequate staff resources to make inspections of non-dispensary grow sites. The Legislature should not provide DOH with the authority to trigger the use of state or local law enforcement in these inspections as it is unjustified and effectively lays the groundwork for the increased criminalization of medical cannabis. If DOH makes an administrative inspection that finds non-compliance it can subsequently refer the matter to law enforcement, which can obtain an administrative inspection warrant.

With the Legislature recently facilitating access to dispensaries by out-of-state medical cannabis patients, which DPFH supports, it would be most unfortunate if Hawai'i's medical cannabis landscape was unduly altered to shortchange the needs of its most vulnerable local patients.

DPFH strongly supports those provisions of the bill that allow dispensary-to-dispensary sales of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products as this will allow patients who are able to access dispensaries an increased variety of cultivars at a given point in time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:59:49 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Rosenbaum	Testifying for Fujiwara and Rosenbaum, LLLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is a Joseph T. Rosenbaum a partner at the Honolulu law firm Fujiwara and Rosenbaum, LLLC. Our firm practices primarily in the area of civil rights. Part of my practice includes representing numerous medical cannabis patients, "authorizing-use" doctors, caregivers and their families. The current sturcture of HRS 329 should not be changed to disalllow or limit caregivers. This caregiver system has been functioning since the passing of HRS 329 without serious issue. The caregiver system is needed for the numerous seriously disabled patients that cannot afford the cannabis sold in local dispensaries and/or do not have easy access to the same considering their often homebound life resulting from their serious medical conditions. To force these patients to rely on the over-priced medicine at the dispensaries is unjust and punitive. Capitalism and funneling money into the dispensaries should not trump the interest and needs of the critically sick and dying members of our community. Many of my medical marijauna clients live on fixed incomes and having to pay a premium for their medicine at a dispensary will drive them out of being able to pay their rent, their utilities and for food. To force such a member of our community to choose between food and medicine is just plain wrong.

Moreover, I do not think there should be any limitation to the number of patients per caregiver or the number of registered patient cards per specific tax-map key parcel. As a matter of economy of scale, the patients I describe above have limited resources and few people have the know how to grow this medicine. As such, those few who can caregive for the many should be lauded and supported instead of restricted.

Respectfully,

Joseph T. Rosenbaum

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:54:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Johnson	Testifying for Island Star Landscaping	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support HB477. I feel that as a patient I wish to reserve the right to grow my own medicine if I so choose to. I do not feel that local government has the right to impose its will upon a registered patient who receives significant health benefits and pain relief from growing my own medicine. In fact, I feel we should be able to grow as much as we want and not be limited whatsoever!



PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME

LATE



~ helping cannabis patients in Hawaii since 2004.

HEARING ON HB477 HD2, HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Aloha Senators,

I strongly **OPPOSE HB477 HD2**, because it completely disregards the needs of Hawaii's most vulnerable cannabis patients. Low income patients are completely priced out of Hawaii's pay-to-play system of the "BIG 8" cannabis dispensary corporations.

Cannabis caregivers are vital to medical cannabis patients. Cannabis patients depend on their compassionate caregivers to provide the individualized remedies that they need at a price they can afford.

How could you justify taking a caregiver away from a man or woman, who is using medical cannabis to relief the pain and stress of terminal cancer. Medical cannabis caregivers provide the perfect individualized cannabis products to ease their suffering, ... which no corporate monopoly can provide.

Hawaii's compassionate caregiver program should be made permanent, not terminated.

Please, consider a whole new approach to cannabis regulation in Hawaii, which allows thousands of small businesses to flourish, and help to provide small farmers with a means to support their various other agricultural crops, which would support Hawaii's food security goals.

Small cannabis business, and patient cooperatives, and compassionate caregivers, are the best programs to move forward for the good of the people, ... instead of for the profits of the corporations.

Mahalo NUI for considering **OPPOSING this bill, HB477 HD 2**,

Brian Murphy, Director
PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME



PWTmaui.org

For more info email: info@PWTmaui.org

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:20:16 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE HB477 HD2 as written,

Specifically OPPOSE "Places certain limits on where qualifying patients can obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products after 12/31/21. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating cannabis for qualifying patients after 12/31/21." This is a power grab by corporate interests to deny competition and accessibility.

Thank you for your very kind attention,

www.WeAreOne.cc

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:44:16 AM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please allow those too sick to have

caregiver grow for them.
many will suffer!
Why change what's wiring quite well?
mahalo ~

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:46:38 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristopher Haynes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly oppose this legislature. I live on and operate a citrus farm on the east side of Kauai. I live on a large property with several other individuals. We also grow our medicine here, for several people who don't have the space nor means to grow their medicine. It is a ridiculous proposal to limit the amount of cards to 2 per property/grow site. I will not have my freedom to grow my own medicine taken away. I will not be forced to go spend money at a place and not know or control the quality or process of my medicine. This change to the rules is vehemently opposed. Please don't do this without careful consideration of how this affects all involved.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:47:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
adrienne tsukiyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is a birth given right to grow your medicine as to heal your body,

It is wrong for legislation to control the right of a human by forcing him to buy medicine that he can grow !

When you grow your own plant you are healing in its entirety of the microbiome .

It therefore becomes a whole oneness with loved nutrients and the God given cycle of regeration each other

I strongly oppose HB477 in its entirety ! It is not a bill that will heal people only create hardship ..

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:58:37 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tim norton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is yet another slap in the face to folks trying to provide themselves with there own medicine. I live on a property with my wife and mother , are the three of us supposed to decide who doesn't get medication? If this bill is passed many lawsuits will follow.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:00:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vladimir Pulido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

2 plants isnt enough for the patient. most grows are only way less than a quarter in the 12 to 12 time era. and everyone arent growers.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:12:03 AM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Ann Shigeoka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

In the description of this Bill, HB477, stating that qualifying patients for medical cannabis, can no longer cultivate their own plants after 12/31/21, this statement shows that this proposal does not recognize that all qualifying patients DO NOT have the ability to go outside and grow their own plants. My son, who has intractable seizures, has this condition because on a cellular level, his brain cells are not built in the same typical way as a normal, healthy person. He cannot talk, sit up, walk or make any purposeful movements except to rub his eyes and nose...and he's 19 years old.

Briefly, I want to share that last year, a custodian at Kaimuki High School yelled at me for parking in a disabled stall and told me I should park someplace else...because I was in his way for his grass cutting. Belive me, if my son could walk to class like any other child vs me pushing his wheelchair, I would love nothing more. I would love nothing more if my child didn't have seizures and needed medication to help alleviate them. I would love it if he could walk outside and grow and nurture a garden. I bring up the parking scenario for emphasis to show how ridiculous both of these sitations are. The demands of this bill place us in a ridiculous scenario that we cannot succeed in. This forces us to purchase only from dispensaries, which so many legislatures fought against to even be here.

Perhaps this Bill was proposed to stop illegal activities by persons who do not have a legal and medical right to have CBD oils, but you cannot punish and take away the hard fought right of many medical patients who physically cannot perform even basic human functions for themselves, let alone go outside, walk the earth and plant and water nature. Its just impossible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Teri Ann Shigeoka,

mother of a 19 year old epileptic, global developmental delayed, non mobile, non verbal

LATE

Aloha Senators,

I strongly **OPPOSE HB477 HD2**, because it completely disregards the needs of Hawaii's most vulnerable cannabis patients. Low income patients are completely priced out of Hawaii's pay-to-play system of the "BIG 8" cannabis dispensary corporations.

Cannabis caregivers are vital to medical cannabis patients. Cannabis patients depend on their compassionate caregivers to provide the individualized remedies that they need at a price they can afford.

What would you say to a man or woman, who is using medical cannabis to relieve the pain and stress of terminal cancer. Medical cannabis caregivers provide the perfect individualized cannabis products to ease their suffering, ... which no corporate monopoly can provide.

Hawaii's compassionate caregiver program should be made permanent, not terminated.

Please, consider a whole new approach to cannabis regulation in Hawaii, which allows thousands of small businesses to flourish, and help to provide small farmers with a means to support their various other agricultural crops, which would support Hawaii's food security goals.

Small cannabis business, and patient cooperatives, and compassionate caregivers, are the best programs to move forward for the good of the people, ... instead of for the profits of the corporations.

Mahalo NUI for considering **OPPOSING this bill, HB477 HD 2**,

Mary Whispering Wind

LATE

HEARING ON HB477 HD2, HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Aloha Senators,

I strongly **OPPOSE HB477 HD2**, because it completely disregards the needs of Hawaii's most vulnerable cannabis patients. Low income patients are completely priced out of Hawaii's pay-to-play system of the "BIG 8" cannabis dispensary corporations.

Cannabis caregivers are vital to medical cannabis patients. Cannabis patients depend on their compassionate caregivers to provide the individualized remedies that they need at a price they can afford.

How could you justify taking a caregiver away from a man or woman, who is using medical cannabis to relieve the pain and stress of terminal cancer. Medical cannabis caregivers provide the perfect individualized cannabis products to ease their suffering, ... which no corporate monopoly can provide.

Hawaii's compassionate caregiver program should be made permanent, not terminated.

Please, consider a whole new approach to cannabis regulation in Hawaii, which allows thousands of small businesses to flourish, and help to provide small farmers with a means to support their various other agricultural crops, which would support Hawaii's food security goals.

Small cannabis business, and patient cooperatives, and compassionate caregivers, are the best programs to move forward for the good of the people, ... instead of for the profits of the corporations.

Mahalo NUI for considering **OPPOSING this bill, HB477 HD 2**,

Brian Murphy

It is a consumer safety issue first, and foremost, to have testing facilities open to patients growing at home, and cannabis patient caregivers.

Legalizing the grey market as it is, will create thousands of small businesses; growing, testing, processing, packaging, and delivering cannabis to cannabis consumers, rather than to “reinforce” the corporate monopoly that now controls Hawaii State’s medical cannabis market.

There is a need to fortify and reinforce patient access to regulated, lab tested cannabis, but they do NOT need to go through a middleman/dispensary corporations. Patients and caregivers only need access to testing facilities.

This bill is patients, growers,
PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME operated a publicly open cannabis patient cooperative from 2004 to 2008, which was recognized by the 2009 Hawaii House of Representatives with a Resolution of Congratulations for helping over 1,200 medical cannabis patients acquire their medical cannabis.

I was wondering if you are aware of Hawaii State Bill **HB477**. This bill has passed the House and has a hearing in the Senate on March 19th.



This bill terminates the cannabis caregivers program in Dec 2021. This is a great hardship for patients who depend on their caregivers.



Mahalo NUI for testifying to
OPPOSE HB477. 🚫

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=477&year=2021

Aloha Joy,

It has come to attention that the heartbreaking bill, HB477, seeks to take away caregivers from seriously ill medical cannabis patients.

HB477 also allows health dept. and police to inspect patients home grows!

It is very disappointing and cruel that lawmakers would take away the only means many patients have obtaining their medical cannabis remedies.

Please, exercise any influence you have to kill this bill, or at least, help amend it to keep Hawaii's compassionate caregivers program.

Mahalo for your consideration.
Mary Whispering Wind

Dylan Shropshire

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:26:28 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micki Puntigam	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Care Wailua is a very good thing, they help patients get their medicine. For many people this farm is needed, it would be impossible to get everyone the needed medicine they need to live day by day with only 2 cards per site.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:52:43 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaime Means	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because I believe in the right of medical marijuana patients and their caregivers to cultivate their own medicine. Hawaii has been hit hard by the covid-19 pandemic, this bill looks to take away the right to cultivate medicine for many patients and force them to go without medicine unless they can afford the extra expense of buying medicine at a dispensary. Most people I know are barely getting by as it is. While I support many parts of this bill I oppose it overall because it takes away the right of a patient to choose a caregiver to provide them medicine and will ultimately cost patients more money than it does now to acquire their medicine. Many patients who can't grow their own medicine have established relationships with caregivers that provide a valuable service that has been in place for over a decade. Eliminating the caregiver system would deprive many people of their medicine if they cannot afford to pay the expensive prices at a dispensary. There are other patients who lease a small plot of land because they aren't able to grow at home, reducing the number of cards to 2 per parcel would take away many good locations that provide a service for patients. There are also properties where more than 2 residents have medical cards, limiting the number of patients who can grow at home to two per parcel who force the remaining patients to find a vacant plot to grow in or be forced to go without medicine if they cannot afford dispensary prices.

I live on Kauai and would like to see the medical marijuana industry flourish, but not at the expense of everyday patients.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:08:32 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Woods	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill would take away rights from everyday Hawaiians and give them directly to large companies. And it will directly affect the poor the worst. Many people who rely on cannabis for medicine dont have land suitable for cultivating it. Or dont have space, or infrastructure. So when a neighbor has space in their greenhouse, it makes sense that they can share space. That sense of community has helped many elderly and poor people access this medicine. Often here in Hawaii you have many people living on one property. And everyone should have the same rights to grow their medicine. We all still have the same legal limits, and abide by them. What this bill proposes is to force many people to buy cannibis at extremely inflated prices because you wont let them grow their medicine at home. Honest, I thought we were past this. As the world opens up to cannibis, dont let Hawaii close the door and possibly force people who are law abiding citizens into a situation where they are criminals.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:19:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John LePera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello, not everyone is good at cultivating Marijuana medicine, many patients unable.. I would like to see the option remain for caregivers to cultivate for patients. It's about to be grown in bulk by big pharma medically which will effect opportunity levels, why effect the Hawaiian people early with this drop in levels, when they will ultimately be effected later. Thank You

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:34:25 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
hannah kitz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I live on a multi acre community that shares growing space and practices. Cannabis is a vital part of my medical regime to maintain a "regular" life through my chronic conditions. This bill, specifically the part that limits the amount of licenses per parcel would severely and negatively impact my wellbeing and cause much stress, strife and hardship to not be able to grow the necessary plants for my medical care. I rely on cannabis to regulate my symptoms and be able to perform work and to live an active life. Growing the medicine I use is a crucial part of being able to utilize this ally because I could not otherwise afford to. Please reconsider this bill and think of those of us that need this plant to live our lives and perform our daily tasks, to control chronic pain and allow a some what normal existence. Mahalo nui loa.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:01:27 PM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Jaron D Heinze	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill would effectively prevent access to care for many medical marijuana patients across Hawai'i. It is hard enough to afford a life here without having to pay exorbitant dispensary prices for necessary medicine, or having to travel to far-flung retail locations. The loophole for 329 cardholders on Molokai and Lanai highlight this issue, in my mind. This bill seems designed solely to benefit the large investors in the dispensary system at the expense of sick people. The caregiver program has allowed me to cultivate medical marijuana for my wife, who has a seizure disorder. It has been essential in providing relief to my family and many others.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:12:04 PM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jimmy joiner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm opposing

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:55:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Gordon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It appears that the demand for medical cannabis is increasing on all the Islands. As we are aware there are many medical cannabis patients on the Big Island. Based on this, the State should allow each dispensary company to open more retail facilities. In turn, more grow and production facilities should also be allowed.

Currently, DOH allows medical cannabis to be transported to other Islands for testing if no testing facility is located on the Island where the material is produced. The State should also consider allowing interisland transport of medical cannabis to dispensaries on other Islands.

Your Support of HB 477 appreciated.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:50:40 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rita L Manderfeld	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I firmly oppose bill HB477. This bill is over reaching and taking the rights of medical patients away. There is no reason that someone seeking a natural way to medicate should not be allowed to have a licensed individual grow for them. I also oppose the limit of 2 cards per household. I oppose letting only one group be the sole dispensary, creating a monopoly and making it unaffordable for those choosing to naturally medicate.

We should be working to open restrictions moving people away from harmful prescription meds and helping others out of hard drug addictions as THC has many studies showing this to be helpful.

Please vote NO on HB477.

Mahalo

Your voting constituent

Rita Manderfeld

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:21:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allan Reaves	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a bad bill. Stop limiting how many cards a property can have. Caregivers should be able to grow too. STOP THE PROHIBITION OF CANNABIS! PEOPLE SHOULD BE FREE TO USE WHATEVER PLANT MEDICINES THEY CHOOSE! IT'S NONE OF GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS! LEGALIZE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA! PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL NEVER WORKED AND NEITHER DOES THIS. STOP THE WAR ON "DRUGS"! IT REALLY IS A WAR ON PEOPLE.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:06:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
celia farrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a social atrocity.

I am writing testimony because of the great concern I have for the safety and well-being of all of the people of Hawaii. I am speaking on behalf of the people of Hawaii, my family and my self.

It's a shame that at this stage of cannabis reform, Hawaii state legislature is only entertaining a bill that supports the existing license holders and does not address the social and economic disparities that has been created by the war on drugs AND licensing only a few operators in the state.

It is long past due that Hawaii addresses the fact that cannabis can be safely grown, bought, and sold- by more than 8 entities in the state. We are missing a huge opportunity.

Not only are we missing a huge opportunity but we are showing the appearance of corruption. The fact that only 8 licenses operate in the state of hawaii is unacceptable. Patients are not being provided safe or affordable medicine when they have so few choices and are forced to pay such high prices due to limited competition.

This proposed bill has no merit in the eyes of the public and is viewed as a state supported monopoly. In fact reading this bill compels me to contact a civil rights attorney and file a complaint against the state of Hawaii and the architects of the bill for a clear breach of duty and responsibility to administer a fair and non discriminatory public program.

It's atrocious that the state is spending precious time and resources pursuing legislation that supports a tiny group of interested parties in Hawaii's economic landscape, while the state is suffering from loss of revenue.

How many more law changes can be made only to support the 8 existing license holders before change can be written to expand the program to create free market competition to provide better less expensive products to consumers and support the states budget?

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:38:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonarath Bory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is too prohibitive and would negatively effect my ability to purchase and grow for my medical needs.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:26:20 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joel lolo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I joel lolo oppose this bill because i dont think its fair to take away caregivers priviledges in trying to help patients that have no clue about how to grow. How are people that have serious medical conditions that cannot do anything by themselves able to get their medicine without a caregiver? Therefore i think its unreasonable to take away those who are willing to help provide for these patients.

mahalo for your time,

Joel Lolo

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:47:13 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Ferree	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This place is an important part of Hawaii and can contribute to the economy immensely.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:48:13 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Schrager	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I oppose this measure because I understand that it will limit what cannabis caretakers will be able to do to help their clients.

Mahalo!

Eric Schrager

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:51:40 PM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lewin Chartrand, Sr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

It is extremely important that I be able to assist my Mother who has stage 4 colon cancer and be present with her on this horrible journey, by being her Caretaker it has allowed me to provide her with necessary and affordable medication, being forced to purchase from dispensaries would only devastate her finances, she just wouldn't be able to afford it. We oppose HB477! Please do the right thing for her and other patients and shut this down.

Mahalo

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:10:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Roberts	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha representatives,

I am submitting testimony in firm opposition of this bill.

I have several family members that are in need of medicine and this bill will make it impossible for these patients to receive the medicine that they need. There are many more that cannot afford premium prices at the dispensary or grow their own cannabis. Additionally, we choose cannabis medicine as part of an organic treatment plan. dispensary grown cannabis is farmed with chemical salts and NOT conducive to healing these patients ailments. As a long time resident, I am also very concerned about energy and water usage practices of Cannabis dispensary. It takes more fuel to grow one ounce of indoor cannabis than to drive a toyota truck for a month. I firmly believe that this is a poor bill for very many reasons and does not support the needs of our community or our environment.

I do support dispensaries for those who choose to use them, but I do not support the expansion of this industry or the restriction of home-grown cannabis medicine in any way. I will not vote for any representatives who support this bill.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 6:45:56 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Sanborn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have heard the decision to remove caregivers is because some have used loop holes to "stack" many cards at one place. The logic to take away caregivers because some have abused the system is weak. To me it is akin to saying because some people have abused unemployment insurance it's a wise and prudent decision to stop unemployment payments to all. People are hurting and now isn't the time to create more burden. The removal of caregivers irrefutably hurts low income patients who cannot afford the exorbitant dispensary prices. It also hurt the severely ill who cannot not afford the toil necessary to produce quality medicine. The caregiver system was deemed sufficient for nearly twenty years and there is no reason to change that to the detriment of the poor and sick. This law is steeped in greed and ignorance and definitely shouldn't be passed. I strongly oppose this bill. Aloha.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:03:48 PM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessie Turner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha this seems to be a bit extreme. The amount of residential spaces on one property is in most cases more than 2. In alot of occasions they dont even know each other so having to determine which tenant gets to keep there plants would upset alot of people bound to cause more problems. I see wanting to regulate it but a more reasonable number would be a much better move.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:39:09 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Tanner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reconsider your support of this bill that is so heavily weighted toward profits by a few, and against gardening by many. Medical cannabis has been unequivocally proven to provide relief of a long list of ailments, and having an alternative to another pharmaceutical drug prescription is a blessing. Especially one that can be grown at minimal cost, and whose production harms no one.

As to the 'checking up' part of the bill, I see no problem in inspecting grow sites, as long as 48hrs notice is given to the caregiver to respect their privacy rights. Mahalo for your time!

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:48:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marya Szaur	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Keep caregivers in place!!! Medical cannabis cardholders should be able to appoint someone to be their caregiver if they aren't able to grow their own. Dispensaries should not have to be their only option, especially for those who aren't able to financially afford the increased prices at dispensaries. Cannabis should be MORE accessible to those who need it most.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:59:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON H.B. NO. 477 H.D. 2

RELATING TO CANNABIS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (HTH)/COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (CPN)

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair/Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair/Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Aloha Senators Keohokalole, Baker, and Chang,

Mahalo for taking the time to consider testimony submitted by your constituents. I am extremely disappointed in HB477, and even more disappointed in the State Representatives that enabled this House Bill to even get this far. The fact that not a single representative voted against this bill despite very reasonable and well informed testimony submitted by The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, The Hawaii Patients' Union, and numerous patient testimonies, speaks volumes about the blatant disregard our representatives have over medical cannabis patients and caregivers' rights to grow our own medicine in a safe and affordable manner. The evidence is clear that those representatives do not represent the best interest of these patients at all, and are clearly voting in the financial interest of the existing dispensaries and the State tax coffers.

I **strongly OPPOSE HB477** for the following reasons:

Limiting 329 cards to two per site: Many working and middle class Hawaii residents suffer from conditions and ailments listed under 329. However, as gentrification in Hawaii continues to skyrocket, access to private land suitable for growing medical cannabis (ie. secluded, remote agricultural land and homestead lots) is becoming increasingly impossible for working and middle class residents to access in order to grow their 1-10 plants. As a result, many of us have resorted to placing our cards on a single designated grow site and working together cooperatively to ensure the plants are secure, healthy, and mold/pest/disease free. Especially for patients who live in the city, in a residential subdivision with no privacy or space, or in apartment complexes, this is the **ONLY** way for them to grow their medicine. Many of us patients have no other options but to grow where another patient we know and trust is already growing. Thus,

limiting a grow site to only two patients is entirely unreasonable given the current socioeconomic environment, growing wealth disparity across the islands, and glaring inequity with respect to real property ownership and access in Hawaii.

Prohibiting caregivers from growing for 329 patients after 12/31/2021: This amendment is not only a blatant disregard of individual freedom and liberty for patient self-determination, it is a prime example of government facilitated inequity and economic coercion forced by the State of Hawaii against the people of Hawaii. Many patients with chronic pain and debilitating conditions are physically unable to do the physical labor required to grow and cultivate a plant that requires a minimum of 5 to 10 gallons of soil on average. Cannabis plants require daily attention, and attention to minute detail such as tiny insects and blemishes caused by disease or mold/mildew. Kupuna with ailing bodies, poor dexterity and strength, and failing vision need caregivers to grow for them. And again, many patients simply do not have the experience, knowledge, skills, and access to private land to grow their plants. Therefore a designated caregiver solves this problem. The argument that dispensaries can provide an alternative source of medicine is absolutely disingenuous. Dispensaries offer cannabis sales at exorbitantly high prices that local working class patients cannot afford. For example, Kauai has only one dispensary (Green Aloha) which sells 1 oz of flower at \$450 or \$530 depending on the strain. (See for yourself: <https://greenaloha.com/menu>) That is HALF A GRAND (\$1000) for a single ounce of flower. This is ridiculous. This is the result of allowing a greedy corporate cannabis monopoly to take root on Kauai. If this amendment passes, then a cancer patient who requires several ounces of flower, or several grams of concentrate, to make RSO (Rick Simpson Oil), or a patient with chronic arthritis or muscle/joint pain who requires several ounces of flower to make topical salve, will not be able to afford the dispensary prices and will therefore not have access to an affordable source of medicine at all. However, an experienced caregiver can feasibly grow a yield with 10 plants that would bring the homegrown cost of 1 oz down to approximately \$200/oz. This is why the end date removing caregivers needs to be removed entirely. Caregivers are essential for many patients, primarily the working and middle class locals. If you allow this bill to pass, you will be directly responsible for pricing these patients out of their own medicine by cutting off their caregiver and source of affordably grown plants. **Please consider removing the ending date for 329 caregivers entirely, as the 12/31/2023 deadline is also unjust and malicious in its attempt to divert local patients and local revenue towards the dispensaries.**

Bottom line: Every 329 patient is entitled to their 10 plants (maximum), whether that patient is capable of growing the plants him or herself, or whether they need someone else to grow for them. 10 plants is reasonable and sufficient for one patient, especially in the common instance where a plant is lost due to wind, rain, pests, mold, etc. 10 plants is clearly not enough to fuel the black market. To ensure feasibility with regards to access to land and growing inputs (soil, fertilizer, growing structure, time, etc.) allowing 5 cards per property is also reasonable and fair based on the increasing difficulty of actually finding an agreeable location to grow cannabis plants securely in the islands.

It is apparent that this bill is a ploy by these representatives to push a political agenda to increase dispensary sales, and by proxy State tax revenues. But the fact is that the dispensaries are not capable of meeting the needs of the patients, namely because of their overinflated price points and limited selections. It is clear some of these dispensaries are not even concerned with serving medical patients, but are rather focused on generating profit (i.e. Kauai's Green Aloha) that they are severely overcharging for their products which could be made at home for less than half the cost. Auwe. Shame on them and shame on the representatives that have voted to pass this bill.

If I may pose a solution to the black market problem and the languid dispensary sales problem: Let the dispensaries in Hawaii go full "recreational" legal. Let them capture the tourist market. That will divert tourists to purchase legally from monitored and regulated, and taxable dispensaries in Hawaii. Allow the dispensaries to grow and sell to each other. And allow for additional licenses/permits to be given to NEW dispensaries (not anyone or any corporation that already has a Hawaii dispensary license) so that there is more competition in the legal dispensary marketplace. This will increase production efficiency AND decrease the dispensary prices. And finally, leave the 329 medical marijuana program alone. We are patients. We do not use cannabis for "fun" or "recreation". We are a grassroots community that has grown to take care of itself and take care of one another. Please just leave us alone if you are not actually trying to help us. Increased regulation by the Department of Health will only result in more money spent/wasted (approximately \$295,000/year apparently) and increased prices that the patient will be burdened with in the end. I hope this Senate committee will be more thoughtful, empathetic, and righteous than your counterparts in the House. Mahalo for your time.

Respectfully,

Alex Wong

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:45:17 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JASPER CLARKE-AGOSTO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT IT

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:59:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kela	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in staunch opposition to the poorly written, bill HB477. This bill seeks to limit patients access to potentially life saving medicine by eliminating caregivers and limiting number of cards registered to an address. This is completely unrealistic, especially here in Hawaii where many people in our community have large families whom live together, or choose to live on larger parcels of land in more of a community setting. Only allowing 2 of these people to have access to their own, homegrown medicine is a crime. Forcing people to source expensive medicine from dispensaries will be cost prohibitive to many patients.

Currently, there are no regulations on the use of harsh chemicals in medical cannabis production, nor are there any rules in regards to transparency so dispensaries do not even have to tell the patients what they are using. Many medical growers DO NOT subscribe to those methods of production - especially for medicinal use. Not to mention the gross fossil fuel consumption necessary to grow cannabis in an artificial environment - which is INSANE when we live in Hawaii where we have some of the best growing conditions in the world.

In the case of pain management, if these patients are priced out of access to medicine, they will likely go elsewhere for is - namely to an MD who almost exclusively perscribe pharmaceutical opiates. We have all seen the way opiate addiction can destroy lives and many of these people would choose a natural route if it were available to them.

This bill is an egregeous invasion of rights and should never have been written in this way.

I am completely fine with dispensaries buying from eachother but not with all of this other garbage attached.

Please kill this bill.

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:10:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
allison vincent	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Allison and I am a medical cannabis patient on Kauai. I strongly oppose the altering of the rules of the program proposed here. My primary concern is cutting off access to caretakers for patients. Our dispensary on Kauai is not sufficient and very expensive. So many of us are struggling from covid shutting down our economy, and now you want to make it harder for those who are sick to access their medicine? Many who utilize cannabis are unable to do the act of growing because of illness or injury. Many also cannot afford to spend \$400 for medicine at the dispensary that lasts them only a week or two. The caretaker option is a perfect way to help elders.

I am also saddened to see the move to limit how many cards can exist at one site. There are some of us who band together to grow in the same place because finding a suitable garden space isn't easy. Also, sharing agriculture products and infrastructure like lights and irrigation has helped cut down on costs during a time where everything is so expensive and so many are struggling due to covid. This cooperative experience has helped me learn to grow my own medicine, but I don't know if I'll be able to continue because it isn't located where I live. Suitable agricultural spaces are hard to come by in some areas, so this "community style gardening" is really helpful for cannabis patients trying to take their health into their own hands.

My final comment is to plead with you to take a different approach to improving this system. Without competition, these dispensaries will never be affordable. Kauai needs another option. We only have one. I don't understand why Hawaii cannot just learn from the successes of other states like California and Colorado and allow more players to enter the game. Doing this would boost this sector economically. Greater choice and competitive prices means people might actually go to dispensaries instead of buying on the black market. Our current system just doesn't allow for this competition. It's being smothered in regulation, and it's essentially a monopoly.

Please remember that cutting off patients from their caretakers pretty much just reduces their access to medicine and will just push more people to rely on the black market. It's too expensive to buy at dispensaries, at least on Kauai.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 12:01:33 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zanth Zanth Guilbeau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would cripple the ability to get medicine to people in need especially if they live in a community or shared property. Cannabis has directly stopped my wife's seizures and t.i.a mini strokes she has had since a guy definitely on amphetamines crashed into her and my 3 month old child in a stolen vehicle.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 7:04:47 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin L. Figueroa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, It is absolutely crucial that patients who are either physically, mentally or emotionally unable to cultivate for themselves are able to have their own trusted caregiver, cultivate for them! This is not the time or place to start restricting people from the very medicine they need!

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 7:34:14 AM
Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rae Sojot	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB477 because I believe not enough research has been made into how this proposed bill will affect the smaller, boutique primary caregiver growers who currently provide cannabis to those in need. HB477 would, in short, forcibly direct the vast majority of cannabis consumership to sole dispensaries--which in theory is good because dispensaries can oversee such issues as quality and quantity on the market but in execution the bill could possibly harm the livelihood of smaller providers who can do the same but on a smaller scale. This is potential another situation of big box vs small shops which has proven detrimental on so many occasions. Again, I oppose HB477.

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 8:05:19 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Franson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose bill HB477. Over reaching, favors big bussiness and takes rights away from patients.

Joseph Franson

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 8:21:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james i.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Against...

LATE

HB-477-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 8:26:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/19/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill