

LATE

Action the Drug Policy
Group

A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
PO Box 61233, Honolulu, HI 96839 ~ (808) 988-4386

Dedicated to safe, responsible, and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pamela Lichty, MPH
President

DATE: March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., room 211

RE: S.B. 113, S.D.1 RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS RESEARCH –
IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committees. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm testifying in support of this measure on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group and as Co-Chair of the Medical Cannabis Working Group which was convened last year by Senator Espero.

Today we wish to offer the support for SB 113, S.D. 1 to set up a three year pilot program in the state to do research on medical cannabis.

The safeguards in the program appear to be comprehensive and the research on Hawai'i-specific strains could prove very useful for patients and physicians participating in the state's medical cannabis program.

The University of California San Diego has had a free standing research institute similar to the project called for in this bill for ten years and produces a body of useful research that have added to our store of knowledge about this versatile and helpful plant.

You will no doubt hear an objection that this pilot project would conflict with Federal law, but I suggest that you research the California experience beginning with their website: www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/. Their home page says in part: "Welcome to the University of California's Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR). The purpose of the Center is to coordinate rigorous scientific studies to assess the safety and efficacy of cannabis and cannabis compounds for treating medical conditions. The funding of the CMCR is the result of SB 847 (Vasconcellos), passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gray Davis. The legislation calls for...objective, high quality

medical research that will "enhance understanding of the efficacy and adverse effects of marijuana as a pharmacological agent," stressing that the project "should not be construed as encouraging or sanctioning the social or recreational use of marijuana" (SB 847)."

In sum, we ask the Committee to pass this bill on to the full Senate with a strong recommendation for approval. Mahalo for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 4:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: andreatischler@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Tischler
Organization: Americans for Safe Access, Big Island Chapter
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: andreatischler@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Andrea Tischler
Co-Chair Americans for Safe Access
Big Island Chapter

RE: SB 113 SD1 Relating to Health
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

RE: SB 113 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research

Position: Strong Support

Cannabis is classified as a Schedule I drug making research extremely difficult to conduct. Since Hawai'i has recognized the benefits of cannabis we need to be able to study its efficacious properties by enabling research in the state.

Please vote to support medical research of cannabis. Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 5:26 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: eott@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erik Ott
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: eott@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

I support this initiative. More medical research will help those opposed to marijuana understand it's benefits better.