

HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 26, 2015
Rm. 016, 9:05 A.m.

To: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 1291, S.D.1, Proposed S.D.2

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.B. No. 1291, S.D.1, if enacted, would prohibit an employer from disciplining, suspending, discharging, or discriminating against an employee who is a patient qualified to use medical marijuana solely because the employee tested positive for marijuana use. The proposed S.B. No. 1291, S.D.2, includes additional civil protections for qualifying medical marijuana patients and primary caregivers, including protections from: civil penalties or disciplinary action by a court or licensing board or bureau; refusal to enroll or other penalty by a school; refusal to lease or other penalty by a landlord; disqualification from medical care; and denial of custody, visitation, or parenting time .

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 1291, S.D.1 or Proposed S.D.2, if the bill is amended to delete Section 1 of the bill, which takes the same statutory language added as a new subsection of HRS § 329-125 in Section 2 of the bill, and pastes it into a new section in HRS chapter 378. It is not necessary to repeat the identical statutory prohibition in Chapter 378, and certainly **not** in Chapter 378, Part I.

Current Medical Marijuana Statute – No Protection for Medical Marijuana Patients in Employment

Hawai‘i, like a number of other states, has enacted its medical marijuana law, HRS chapter 329, permitting physicians to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes for qualifying patients who have been diagnosed as having a debilitating medical condition. The statute allows qualifying patients who have a physician’s certification and have registered with the Department of Health to obtain, cultivate, possess, and use marijuana to alleviate the symptoms or effects of a debilitating medical condition.

HRS § 329-125 provides protections for qualifying patients and primary caregivers of qualifying patients, including the qualifying medical use of marijuana as an affirmative defense to any criminal prosecution involving marijuana. Chapter 329 currently provides no employment protections for medical marijuana users.

The Hawai‘i medical marijuana law does not provide protection for marijuana use or intoxication at work. Indeed, no state medical marijuana law goes that far, and neither does the new protection created by H.B. No. 795.

HRS § 329-121 defines “debilitating medical condition” to mean three things: 1. Cancer, glaucoma, HIV positive status, AIDS, or the treatment of those conditions; 2. A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces cachexia or wasting syndrome, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures (including those characteristic of epilepsy, or severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of MS or Crohn’s disease; or 3. Any other medical condition approved by the Department of Health pursuant to its rules, pursuant to a request from a physician or a potentially qualifying patient.

Federal and State Law Protections for Persons with Disabilities in Employment – Treatment of Medical Marijuana Users

Both the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and state HRS Chapter 378, part I, prohibit discrimination based on disability in employment, and require an employer provide reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an employee with a disability, unless the employer can show that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the business. A reasonable accommodation is any modification or adjustment that makes it possible for a person with a disability to enjoy equal employment opportunity.

Reasonable accommodations might include: making existing facilities accessible; job restructuring; part-time or modified work schedules; acquiring or modifying equipment; **changing** tests, training materials, or **policies**; providing qualified readers or interpreters; or reassignment to a vacant position.

Under both federal and state law, in the reasonable accommodation context, a person with a “disability” means a person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include: 1. Basic activities that most people in the general population can perform with little or no difficulty, including, but not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, sitting, standing, lifting, reaching, eating, sleeping, bending, concentrating, thinking, communicating, interacting with others, and working; the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genito-urinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions, including the operation of an individual organ in the body.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has held that **the federal ADA does not protect individuals who use marijuana for medical use or require employer accommodation of such use**, because the ADA expressly excludes current users of illegal drugs from its definition of “qualified individuals with a disability,” and marijuana remains an illegal drug under federal law, even when such use is legal under state law. *James v. Costa Mesa*, 700 F.3d 394, 397 (9th Cir. 2012).

In addition there are federal drug-free workplace laws that apply to federal contractors and, in the transportation industry, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations that employees in safety sensitive positions, such as truck drivers, must be removed from those positions if they test positive for drugs, until certain return-to-duty requirements are met. Non-compliance with these DOT regulations can result in fines and loss of federal funding. Some state medical marijuana statutes expressly permit the discipline of a qualifying patient for violating a workplace drug policy or failing a drug test where that failure would place the employer in violation of federal law or cause the employer to lose a federal contract or funding.

While there is an apparent conflict between federal and state laws, it is worth noting that no court has ruled that federal law preempts the Hawai‘i state medical marijuana law. And, our state laws can provide broader and stronger protections than the federal law.

Which brings us to the question: ***Under Hawai‘i disability law, must an employer consider and provide a reasonable accommodation for an employee with a disability who is a medical marijuana user by making an exception to a policy imposing discipline for a positive marijuana drug test?***

Under current law, the answer is likely no. We have found no jurisdiction that has a medical marijuana law

that requires employers to make a reasonable accommodation for use of medical marijuana for persons with disabilities, without express inclusion of employment-related protections in their medical marijuana statutes.

Based on cursory research, of some twenty-four states that have medical marijuana laws, it appears that five state statutes include protections for employees: Delaware, Arizona, Maine, Rhode Island, and Nevada. The Delaware and Arizona statutes expressly protect employees who are registered medical marijuana users from discriminatory action in hiring, termination, terms and conditions, or other penalty based on a positive drug test. Nevada requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for an employee who is a registered medical marijuana user.

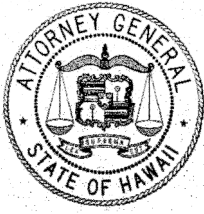
If Hawai'i follows suit with the enactment of S.B. No. 1291, then employers must consider and provide a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability who tests positive for marijuana, if that person is a registered qualifying medical marijuana patient.

It is important to note that the HRS § 329-121 definition of "debilitating medical condition" is not identical to the HRS § 378-1 and HAR 12-46-182 definition of "disability," so not every registered qualifying medical marijuana patient will necessarily be a person with a disability entitled to a reasonable accommodation.

CONCLUSION

The HCRC's interest in S.B. No. 1291, S.D.1 or Proposed S.D.2, is focused on how the bill affects the right of a person with a disability to a reasonable accommodation in employment. Section 1 of the bill, amending HRS § 329-125, addresses the HCRC concern by expressly protecting the employment rights of registered medical marijuana users, and should be sufficient basis to trigger a state reasonable accommodation requirement, especially if that is expressed as the intent of the legislature. It is not appropriate or desirable to assign the HCRC enforcement jurisdiction over the broader protection for all medical marijuana users, not limited to persons with disabilities, for wrongful termination, unlawful suspension, discharge, or discriminatory action, especially in light of the HCRC's limited resources and lost capacity to enforce civil rights protections already under HCRC jurisdiction.

The HCRC urges the committee to amend S.B. No. 1291, S.D.1 or Proposed S.D.2, by deleting Section 1 of the bill, or amending Section 1 to expressly state that it be placed somewhere other than Part I of chapter 378. With that change, the HCRC supports the bill.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1291, S.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 2, RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2015

TIME: 9:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, Attorney General, or
James E. Halvorson, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

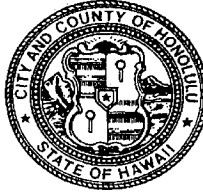
The Department of the Attorney General has concerns regarding this bill. While this bill makes it clear that the use of marijuana in the workplace is not protected, it does not provide sufficient protection for employers who must comply with federal law. Many federal laws and regulations proscribe the use of marijuana even if the person is not actually impaired at work. Notably, the Commercial Drivers License requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Lautenburg amendments regarding carrying a firearm impose requirements on the employer if an employee tests positive for marijuana even if the employee is not impaired at work. Wording on page 1, lines 5-7, and page 3, lines 10-11, provides “[U]nless a failure to do so would cause an employer to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law” does not go far enough.

This bill needs to be amended to expressly provide that no employer shall discriminate “unless a failure to do so would cause an employer to be in violation of any federal law or regulation.”

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET 10TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-8500 • FAX: (808) 768-5563 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/hr

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



CAROLEE C. KUBO
DIRECTOR
NOEL T. ONO
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 26, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members of the Committee
on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1291, SD1 *and* SD2
Relating to Medical Marijuana

The Department of Human Resources ("DHR"), City and County of Honolulu respectfully oppose SB 1291, SD1 *and* SD2. Both proposed drafts would prohibit employers from disciplining, suspending, discharging, or discriminating against employees (and, in the case of SD2, applicants) based on a positive marijuana test result if the employee (and/or applicant) used medical marijuana in accordance with the law, however, DHR respectfully submits that both proposed drafts would have unintended consequences for employers. DHR respectfully requests that this committee hold SB 1291 in conference.

While the intent of the measure seems reasonable at first glance, the proposed law fails to take into account the realities of the workplace and the role drug-testing plays in enhancing workplace safety. According to the DEA, marijuana is a mind-altering drug.¹ The short-term effects of marijuana include distorted perception, loss of coordination, and problems with memory, learning, and problem-solving.² Long-term use of marijuana is further associated with impairment of judgment, memory, and concentration.³ To help in creating a safer work environment, employers must have a reliable and practical method for identifying employees whose work may be affected by the mind-altering effects of marijuana. This is particularly critical for our first responders

¹ See U.S. Dept. of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Marijuana Drug Fact Sheet, *available at* http://www.dea.gov/druginfo/drug_data_sheets/Marijuana.pdf

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

and other employees who duties include safety-sensitive functions, where the effects may not be apparent until an employee is in a life or death, crisis situation. We have negotiated drug-testing programs, as well as drug-testing policies covering employees in safety-sensitive functions who are excluded from collective bargaining agreements. Both drug-testing programs include disciplinary and other actions triggered by positive tests, which we would like to be able to continue to enforce.

SD2's Part I, Section 1 subpart (2) and Section 2 subpart (e)(2)⁴ restrict use of marijuana only "*in the workplace of the employee's employment.*" The bill does not clearly cover on-duty work outside of the workplace, for example, employees who are drivers.⁵

SD2's Section 1 subpart (3) and Section 2 subpart (e)(3)⁶ enable employers to restrict employees from being "*under the influence of marijuana while working in the workplace.*"⁷ Unfortunately, current urinalysis testing methods do not allow for a determination of whether employees are "under the influence," only whether cannabinoid metabolites are present in an individual's urine. To DHR's knowledge, there is currently no objective and approved laboratory test available which could reliably determine whether an employee is "under the influence" of marijuana. Public safety could be endangered if only employees who are proven to be "under the influence" of marijuana may be subject to personnel action. Even if supervisors receive training on the signs and symptoms of an employee being "under the influence," factors such as delayed reaction time and ability to make sound decisions in a crisis will not necessarily present themselves in an observable manner prior to the crisis—at which time it would be too late. This is why random testing and actions taken for positive test results remain valuable tools in enhancing the safety of the workplace.

Finally, DHR has concerns about enacting this proposed law via amendment to Hawaii's discrimination statute, Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 378. DHR does not believe it is appropriate to essentially create a new "protected class" of persons in employees who utilize medical marijuana. This bill would effectively elevate the protections offered to users of medical marijuana *above and beyond* those offered to users of any other prescriptive substance. DHR believes the practical effect of the new language, as written, would be to open employers up to potential discrimination claims *anytime* employment action against a qualified patient or primary caregiver is taken, even if the employment action were reasonable.

4 In SD1, the reciprocal language is contained in Section 1 subpart (2) and Section 2 subpart (d)(2).

5 If this bill is *not* held in conference, DHR respectfully requests that such language be changed to "while on-duty OR in the workplace of the employee's employment."

6 In SD1, the reciprocal language is contained in Section 1 subpart (3) and Section 2 subpart (d)(3).

7 If this bill is *not* held in conference, DHR would again respectfully request that such language be changed to "while on-duty OR in the workplace of the employee's employment."

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members of the Committee
on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
February 26, 2015
Page 3

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that SB 1291 be held. In the event that this committee decides to pass SB 1291, DHR respectfully requests that first responders and other employees whose duties include safety-sensitive functions be specifically excluded. Furthermore, DHR respectfully requests that additional language be added to make clear that employers are allowed to take action if the employer has a reasonable belief that workplace safety is compromised (irrespective of whether a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulation is at issue).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,



Carolee C. Kubo
Director

cc: Mayor's Office

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **RN-JK**

February 26, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1291, S.D. 1, Relating to Medical Marijuana
Senate Bill No. 1291, Proposed S.D. 2, Relating to Medical
Marijuana**

I am Ryan Nishibun, Captain of the Human Resources Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes the passage of Senate Bill No. 1291, S.D. 1, and Proposed S.D. 2, Relating to Medical Marijuana. It would appear by the current language of the bill that if an employee had a medical marijuana card, he or she could be under the influence of marijuana at any time other than during work.

The HPD tests employees for the presence of marijuana but does not test to see if an employee is "under the influence" of marijuana. Unlike alcohol, marijuana has not been quantified to determine varying levels of impairment and can have impairing effects of up to 30 days. HPD officers and essential civilian employees are expected to report for duty when called upon, perform their duties, and make split-second decisions with a clear and conscious mind. Having marijuana in their system will negatively impact their judgment and performance and could jeopardize their safety as well as the safety of other employees and the public.

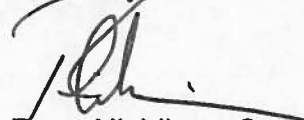
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
February 26, 2015
Page 2

The HPD and the unions recognize the serious adverse effects illegal drugs can have on the safety and performance of its employees and the potential impact to the public; and, therefore, agree that they will not tolerate their employees using illegal drugs on or off duty. Collective bargaining agreements and departmental policy prohibit the use and presence of any illegal substance.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 1291, S.D. 1, and Proposed S.D. 2, Relating to Medical Marijuana.

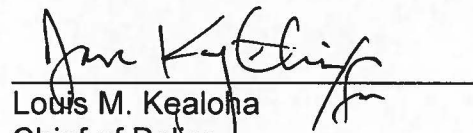
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Ryan Nishibun, Captain
Human Resources Division

APPROVED:


Louis M. Kealoha
Chief of Police



Hawaii's voice for sensible, compassionate, and just drug policy

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015
9:05 AM

Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**Executive Director Rafael Kennedy in support – SB1291 Proposed SD2 – Relating to the
the Medical Use of Marijuana**

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the committee,

Mahalo for taking the time to hear this bill. As you may know, Hawaii's medical marijuana law allows patients to have and use medical cannabis, but it does not give them any real protection against civil liability or discrimination, and in this way it is sorely behind the times. Most recent medical cannabis programs include some protections against the civil penalties and discrimination that can be as harmful as criminal prosecution for patients.¹

- Patients can still be denied housing, despite recent improvements to housing protections for patients. Especially in Hawaii, housing is a core issue, both for individuals and families.
- Patients can be denied visitation with their children solely on the grounds of their legal medication. Fears about losing custody, losing parenting time, and losing the chance to play a role in the lives of children are critical for many people, and we hear often from patients who are worried about neighbors threatening to call Child Protective

¹ See the attached document from the Marijuana Policy Project outlining the state of civil protections for medical cannabis patients in various states.

Services. The fact is that many medical cannabis patients are excellent parents, and their status alone should not be enough to cause them to lose their children.

- Patients can be expelled from school, or denied admission to educational programs.
- Patients can be denied life-saving transplants solely on the grounds of their medical cannabis use and have been! There have been many incidents of this throughout the country, including a Big Island resident named Kimberley Reyes who lost her life to hepatitis after being denied a liver transplant in 2009 because of having cannabis in her system.^{2 3} This is truly unconscionable. In many cases, medical cannabis is used precisely because it is not hepatotoxic.

This bill may not fix all of these problems immediately, because it allows exceptions for institutions that would lose "a monetary- or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulation." It may indeed also be worth inputting **explicit exceptions for safety sensitive positions**. Still, this shows the clear intent to treat medical cannabis patients with the same compassion and humanity with which we treat patients who use other medicine.

While we support the SD1, we support the proposed SD2 more strongly because it brings in several other protections that are necessary, and seem to be far less controversial than the employment protections in the SD1. We sincerely thank the committee for its time and consideration in this matter, Mahalo.

Rafael Kennedy
Executive Director,
Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii

2 Chelsea Jensen. "Marijuana Use May Have Cost Big Island Woman a Life-Saving Liver Transplant." *Honolulu Advertiser*. August 9, 2009. <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2009/Aug/09/br/hawaii308090006.html>.

3 Belville, Russel. "The Denial of Organ Transplants to Medical Marijuana Patients." *The Huffington Post*. Accessed February 16, 2015. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/russ-belville/the-denial-of-organ-trans_b_435348.html.

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii works to educate policymakers and the public about effective ways of addressing drug issues in Hawai'i with sensible and humane policies that reduce harm, expand treatment options, and adopt evidence-based practices while optimizing the use of scarce resources.



Hawaii's Voice for Sensible, Compassionate, and Just Drug Policy

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, M.P.H., PRESIDENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2015, 9:05 a.m., ROOM 016

RE: S.B. 1291, **PROPOSED S.D. 2** RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA – **IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Good morning, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm President of the Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG), the government affairs arm of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.

The Drug Policy Action Group strongly support the proposed S.D. 2 of this measure which offers more comprehensive protections than the S.D. 1 and would emulate other states which grant extensive civil protections to individuals who are duly registered medical marijuana patients or caregivers.

We are pleased to see that the proposed draft broadens the protections afforded to those strictly complying with state law to not only their workplaces and any drug testing that may take place there, but also to courts and to relevant professional and occupational licensing boards.

It is also good to see that the S.D. 2 offers critical protections in educational settings, in rental housing, and especially in medical settings in particular vis à vis the sometimes literally life-threatening decisions about eligibility for an organ transplant.

We also applaud the provision safeguarding parental rights since there is no documented correlation between the legal use of medical marijuana and parental neglect or abuse.

We understand the necessity of including the various provisions excluding protections where they may conflict with federal funding or regulations. We look forward to a time when federal and state laws on medical cannabis are in closer alignment and these exclusions become unnecessary.

As advocates for patients rights, and for the medical marijuana program in general, we thank the Committee for hearing this and the related civil protections measures today.

We urge the Committee to pass the far-sighted, proposed S.D. 2 of this measure on to the full Senate with a strong recommendation for passage. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 12:47:52 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha JDL Committee! Community Alliance on Prisons is in support of the proposed SD2 version of this bill. Please protect the rights of patients. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Kat Brady Coordinator

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 2:28:32 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Alivado	General Contractors Association of Hawaii	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 5:56:50 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawaii Cannabis Care	Hawaii Cannabis Care	Support	Yes

Comments: We support!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 12:25:04 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 4:45:13 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I understand that regarding SB1291 - Two versions SD1 and SD2 will be heard. SD1 Related to employee protections: I (SUPPORT IF) SB1291-SD2 passes. ---SD2 (I SUPPORT) Has all NEW text. It addresses the issues of primary care physician language and transportation.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 6:14:51 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Ciccone	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I support!! Please make the needed changes!! Mahalo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7:57:16 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah M. Koonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in support of this bill because I believe we need to treat medical cannabis patients equally compassionate and humane as we would treat any other patient who uses other medicines. Medical cannabis patients also need the same equal protection as any other patients against discrimination in education, hiring, housing, protection against being denied custody of children and visitation rights, and protection against being denied any other medical care based dopey on medical cannabis use. Thank You. Please support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1291 on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7:59:35 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:18:14 PM

SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgina Mckinley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1291 SD2, as it would grant some necessary protections against discrimination in matters of education, employment, housing, parental rights, and protection against being denied other medical care, such as organ transplants, on the grounds of being a medical cannabis patient. Cannabis can often control pain without the debilitating side effects of more dangerous prescription narcotics. A patient should not be forced to choose between the pain relief they need to live a normal life and the employment they need to support themselves and their families. Medical cannabis patients who are complying with the law should be treated with the same fairness, compassion and humanity with which we treat patients who use other medicines. Thank you, for your consideration of this matter.

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SB1291

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a Big Island resident & a small business owner. I strongly support this bill.

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