

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lorrin.kim@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM
Attachments: HB788_HTH_020715_HLT.pdf

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

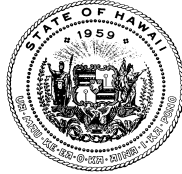
Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lorrin Kim | Department of Health | Comments Only | No |

Comments: DOH offers comments recommending deferral. The bill raises important points related to the regulation to cultivate medical marijuana but the discussion should not be independent of the larger discussion on medical marijuana dispensaries.

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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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB788
RELATING TO MARIJUANA**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA BELATTI, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing Date: February 7, 2015 Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Comments:** The Department of Health takes no position on the merits of HB788
- 3 but respectfully recommends its deferral.
- 4 The definition of "medical use" of medical marijuana as it relates to cultivation, pursuant to
- 5 section 329-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, may be considered broad, but additional regulation or
- 6 authority to regulate should be developed as part of a comprehensive omnibus medical marijuana
- 7 dispensaries measure.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII POLICE DEPARTMENT

HOUSE BILL 788

RELATING TO MARIJUANA

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

And

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE : Saturday, February 7, 2015

TIME : 10:00 A.M.

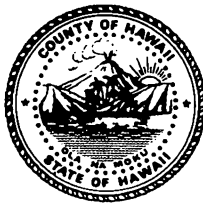
PLACE : Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

PERSON TESTIFYING:

Harry S. Kubojiri
Hawaii Police Department
County of Hawaii

(Written Testimony)

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

February 5, 2015

Representative Della Au Belatti
Chair and Committee Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Representative Karl Rhoads
Chair and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: HOUSE BILL 788 RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Dear Representatives Au Belatti and Rhoads:

The Hawai'i Police Department opposes House Bill 788 as written, with its purpose being to authorize the cultivation of medical marijuana.

The Hawai'i Police Department is concerned that the Bill's wording would seemingly allow the infusion of Marijuana into products that are not registered either with a patent or trademark. Our concerns are that if infused into unregistered products, it could lead to accidental ingestion by unknowing persons to include minors.


We are also additionally concerned that the Bill fails to define the standards and methods for testing of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content and it also fails to define the limits of acceptable THC content.

According to an article by Caleb Hellerman written (last updated August 9, 2013) for the Cable News Network (CNN) entitled "Is Super Weed, Super bad?", he notes that in the annual Cannabis Cup competition where marijuana enthusiasts gather to try pot from various places and vote on their favorites, the most potent strains have a THC content of around 25%, according to testing commissioned by the organizers at High Times. He further writes that at the University of Mississippi, in a laboratory that tracks the potency of marijuana seized by federal law enforcement officers, they've found even higher levels -- as high as 37%, according to Dr. Mahmoud ElSohly, the director of the Marijuana Potency Project. The article continues with ElSohly stating that 1972, the average THC content of marijuana has soared from less than 1% to 3 to 4% in the 1990s, to nearly 13% today.

It is for these reasons, we urge these committees to not approve this legislation.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to House Bill 788.

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELLATI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai'i

February 7, 2014

RE: H.B. 788; RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the House Committee on Health, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in opposition of House Bill 788.

Currently, pursuant to section 329-121, H.R.S., a Qualifying Patient or Primary Caregiver can cultivate marijuana. H.B. 788 would allow anyone to cultivate marijuana. Cultivating of marijuana should be limited to a Qualifying Patient or Primary Caregiver.

For the above reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney strongly opposes the passage of H.B. 788. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **JI-TA**

February 7, 2015

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Belatti and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 788, Relating to Marijuana

I am Jason Kawabata, Captain of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes House Bill No. 788, Relating to Marijuana.

Passage of this bill would appear to make lawful the cultivation of marijuana for sale or distribution. Cultivation would only be allowed for those who are twenty-one years of age or older and who register with the Department of Health. However, the bill does not create any adequate mechanism for regulating the growth of the marijuana. It also does not provide ways for law enforcement to monitor compliance with the law. This will result in the diversion of marijuana for illegal uses.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Bill No. 788, Relating to Marijuana.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kawabata".

JASON KAWABATA, Captain
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealohe".

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:51 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dciccone@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dana Ciccone | Hawaii Cannabis Care | Support | No |

Comments: PLease Support

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Joy Sanbuenaventura, Vice Chair

Saturday, February 7, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Room 329

OPPOSITION to HB 788 - MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION

Aloha Chairs Belatti and Rhoads and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that more than 1,600, and soon to be rising number of Hawai'i individuals who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 788 authorizes the cultivation of medical marijuana; requires registration with DOH; requires DOH to adopt rules and prohibits the infusion of trademarked products with medical marijuana.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in opposition to this measure that only serves to confuse the issue.

The HCR 48 Task Force worked diligently to develop a regulatory structure for both dispensaries and production centers. HB 321 is a good bill and that should be the vehicle to get Hawai'i's medical marijuana dispensary system going.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committee to hold this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



The Public Policy Voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

HEARING: House Committee(s) on HLT/JUD, hearing on 02/07/15 @ 10:00 a.m. #329.

SUBMITTED: February 3, 2015

TO: House Committee on Health & House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Comments and serious reservations on Medical Marijuana Bills
HB 321, HB 788, HB 1455, HB 794 and HB 795

If passed, these bills would allegedly “fix” the problem of medical marijuana distribution and the need for dispensaries and/or regulation. **We understand that medicinal marijuana is already legal in the State of Hawaii.; however, we maintain that promoting the use of marijuana (even for medical reasons) will translate for many, especially young people, as permissiveness, with little or no consideration of its ultimate effect on one’s body.** According to the American Medical Association, marijuana is considered a “dangerous drug” and a “powerful intoxicant” that harms one’s mental, physical, academic, and spiritual well-being, promotes irresponsible sexual behavior, encourages disrespect for traditional values, and threatens Hawaii’s youth. This is not what we want for Hawai’i’s keiki.

At the federal level, marijuana remains classified as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, where Schedule I substances are considered to have a high potential for dependency, making distribution of marijuana a federal offense.

Many prescribing physicians for medicinal use of marijuana are arbitrary as to what counts as an authentic medical need so there is no real way for this legislature to make a truly informed decision. Even the American Medical Association’s 527-member House of Delegates decided during its interim meeting in 2013 (National Harbor, Md.), to retain the long-standing position that “cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern.”

Long-term health effects of chronic use, and marijuana’s role as a gateway to the use of other illegal drugs, are serious issues surrounding its use and decriminalization. The Catholic Church cares too much about the family to support this endeavor. Priority legislation should include efforts that strengthen and promote the family, not provide tools to ultimately destroy it.

The Catechism offers useful guidance: “The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life” (no. 2291). In 2001, the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry issued a pastoral handbook entitled “Church, Drugs, and Drug Addiction.” It extols the virtue of temperance which “disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine” (no. 2290).

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit these comments.

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

A 501(C) (4) organization associated with Hawaii Family Forum

ONLINE TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL
House Committee on Health & House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing on February 7, 2015 @ 10:00
Conference Room #329

DATE: February 3, 2015

TO: House Committee on Health House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Richard Creagan, Vice Chair Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

FROM: James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. Interim President & CEO

RE: Serious Reservations on HB 321; HB 1455; HB794; HB 795 Relating to Medical Marijuana
Comments on HB 788 Relating to Marijuana (cultivation clarification)

My name is James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr., and I have been an attorney in Honolulu since 1981. Currently I am also the interim president of Hawaii Family Advocates, a 501(c)(4) independent expenditure, non-candidate organization. Along with our community associate Hawaii Family Forum, we have serious reservations about these bills.

Although 23 states have enacted laws to legalize medical marijuana, (including Hawai'i which legalized it for medicinal use in 2000)ⁱ, the bottom line remains that **it is still illegal to possess, use or distribute marijuana according to federal law**. People who use marijuana, even for medical purposes, could end up in jail. This seems like a very ambiguous place to leave our community residents who feel that medical marijuana is the best answer to their quality of life.

In a 2013 article published by the American Psychiatric Association, they quote the American Medical Association who maintains their current policy that asserts "cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern, [that] sale and possession of marijuana should not be legalized, [and that] public health-based strategies, rather than incarceration, should be utilized in the handling of individuals possessing cannabis for personal use."ⁱⁱ

It's important to note the impact of medicinal marijuana usage on important functions of the body; normal brain function and concentration, learning, memory, and judgment. These problems can continue for days or weeks after the immediate effects of the drug have worn off. In addition, research has linked marijuana use with poor overall job performance, which includes increased tardiness, absenteeism, accidents, and workers' compensation claims. The Oregon States Sheriff's Department reported that "Toxicology reports with positive marijuana results for driving under the influence have increased 16 percent from 2011 to 2013 in Colorado."ⁱⁱⁱ

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

A 501(C) (4) organization associated with Hawaii Family Forum

PAGE TWO

-Testimony-

Relating to Medical Marijuana

It may seem compassionate to support medical marijuana; however, usage impairs an individual's ability to make deep and meaningful attachments and robs them of the ability to be intimate with other people. This promotes isolation, which feeds the need to smoke pot, which strains more relationships. This cycle causes increased conflict in relationships. Heavy, long-term use of marijuana stunts emotional and social development. It kills motivation and prevents people from moving forward in their lives. Is this really what we want for Hawai'i's sick and infirmed?

Authorities nationwide point to states that have approved its medical use of cannabis, such as California and Colorado. Overall crime in Denver increased 6.7 percent from the first six months of 2013 to the first six months of 2014^{iv}. Storefront marijuana shops in Los Angeles and Colorado, for instance, have drawn frequent complaints and a crackdown from federal drug agents, while local law enforcement report that some shops have been taken over by illegal drug dealers. These real-life examples give rise to doubts that legislation can effectively regulate the sale and production of medical marijuana. The door, already opened and expanded by these bills, will provide criminals who produce and distribute them the opportunity to destroy our local communities. Is this really what we want for Hawai'i?

Finally, regulating dispensaries is going to be a very tough job! Of the 23 states that have legalized medical marijuana only 17 of them have dispensaries. One factor is that in states where medicinal marijuana is legal, dispensary owners have had problems finding banks to take the money, since federal law still prohibits the sale of marijuana. In addition, the Oregon Health Department reported problems with labeling, testing and tracking inventory as common violations found by medical marijuana dispensary inspectors.^v

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our concerns.

ⁱ Senate Bill 862 passed in 2000, (VOTE IN THE HOUSE) 30 yes-and 20 no (Auwae, Cachola, Halford, Kanoho, Kawakami, Lee, Leong, Marumoto, McDermott, Menor, Meyer, Morihara, Moses, Nakasone, Pendleton, Rath, Stegmaier, Takai, Whalen, Yonamine); (VOTE IN THE SENATE) 15 yes-and 10 no (Buen, Chun, D. Ige, M. Ige, Inouye, Iwase, Kawamoto, Matsuura, Sakamoto, Tam)

ⁱⁱ <http://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176%2Fappi.pn.2013.12b20>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.oregonsheriffs.org/pdfs/Marijuana.pdf> (2014 report)

^{iv} *ibid*

^v <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/politics/2014/08/14/state-releases-first-medical-marijuana-dispensary-inspections/14074265/>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: alternativepainmanagementclub@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mike Ruggles | Alternative Pain Management Pu`uhona | Oppose | No |

Comments: I do not support HB 788 and would like to see it killed. Section 329-B(5) has great potential to be abused by law enforcement and perpetuates treating patients like criminals. I support patients continuing to have the right to cultivate their own medicine when that is a feasible option for them.

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bacher.robert@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Robert Bacher | Green Futures | Support | No |

Comments: This bill will help to regulate, license, and tax safe access for patients who are currently left without assistance.

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THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY of HAWAII

C/O 1658 Liholiho St #205

Honolulu, HI 96822

TESTIMONY

February 4, 2014

RE: HB 788 to be heard Saturday February 7, 2015 in Conference Room 329

To the members of the House Committees on Judiciary and on Health

SUPPORT

The Libertarian Party strongly supports this bill. It is far simpler than the complicated HB 321. However, no rational basis has been established to support the under 21 years of age rule. Perhaps clarification should be added. For example a license is granted to a 40 year old and they allow their 20 year old son to help with the harvesting of the crop. Does that now become a felony?

The bill would be further improved if the word "shall" was replaced by "may" in its directive to the State Department of Health to establish various rules.

The legislature would be far better served to adopt HB 841 which will provide a broad based legalization and by implication provide for better medical access and usage.

Tracy Ryan
Chair

creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hawaicannabiscare@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Hawaii Cannabis Care | Hawaii Cannabis Care | Support | No |

Comments: Please Support!!

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

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH
FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, M.P.H., PRESIDENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 10 A.M., ROOM 329

RE: H.B. 788 RELATING TO MARIJUANA – **IN OPPOSITION**

Good morning Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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 Hawai'i.

DPAG is opposed to HB 788 essentially because we find its provisions confusing and/or unnecessary.

The first section 329-A, permitting cultivation of medical marijuana, and requiring registration with DOH is redundant with the existing law (although the over-21 stipulation may be a new provision.)

The second section, 329-B requires DOH to adopt rules for registration of cultivators of medical marijuana. There are already proposed administrative rules published and public hearings for those have recently concluded.

Just as the PSD rules did, these draft rules already require the information specified under (A) and (B) of this measure.

Paragraphs (3) and (4) outline provisions for laboratory standards that are addressed in the far more comprehensive HB 321. And in any case these types of provisions would only pertain once a dispensary system is approved.

As for Paragraph (5) I think it's inappropriate that DOH be tasked with developing procedures for enforcements on cultivation. This is not the role for a public health agency.

Finally in 329-C it's my understanding that the doctoring of trademarked items is already illegal under applicable federal law.

In short, we find HB 788 confused and confusing and respectfully ask this Committee to hold this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

JATAC
JAMES ANTHONY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSULTING

3542 Fruitvale Avenue, 224
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 842-3553 *off*
(510) 207-6243 *cell*
(510) 283-0187 *fax*
MCDLawyer@gmail.com

Testimony to House Committees on Health and Judiciary sitting jointly, 2/7/15

From: James Anthony for Hui Kahu Malama Puhipono

Re: HB 788

I am a California land use attorney and former City of Oakland nuisance property prosecutor, also licensed in the State of Hawaii, my one hanau. I have spent the last nine years advising medical cannabis dispensaries and local and state governments on dispensary regulation. I appeared before your Health Committee at the Chair's invitation last year, and I also appeared before your HCR 48 Task Force last year during its deliberations at the members' request. I am fortunate to be working informally with Hui Kahu Malama Puhipono, a Medical Cannabis Caregivers Association. The group is comprised of patients and caregivers already in the existing program and their activist supporters.

Your Task Force did a commendable job under difficult conditions of time constraint. With a steep learning curve, they absorbed the lessons of the many states and localities that have addressed these issues and produced their recommendations which the LRB has crafted into a workable piece of legislation. The bill empowers the Department of Health to develop and implement a dispensary system for Hawaii that is sensitive to local conditions and addresses painful gaps in the Hawaii Medical Cannabis program that have existed far too long.

I make only one suggestion for your consideration and for the record.

Give Department of Health a Clear Mandate to Implement Extending Medical Hospitality to Out-Of-State patients.

Picture this in less than two years: Local patients are able to buy a wide variety of excellent sustainable sun-grown medicine and products, BUT legal medical cannabis patients visiting from other states are forced to go without—or go to the underground market. That would be both shameful and cruel. That is not Hawaii; that is not Aloha. Don't let it happen.

Be welcoming and kind: implement medical hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

James Anthony, Jr.

James Anthony, Jr.

creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Wailua Brandman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 7:55 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

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

Comments:

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:55 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: rtemple@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Robin Temple | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 7:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: j.bobich@tcu.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Joseph A. Bobich | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I support this measure. Sincerely, Joseph A. Bobich, Ph. D.
Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus

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creagan1 - Dannah

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Cc: mwu808@gmail.com
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HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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Dr. Myron Berney, ND Lac

908 16th Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816-4126

HB788 Support intent; delete everything after line 9 Page 1

The commercial growing of Hemp, Cannabis, is permitted under Federal Farm Bill.

The Department of Justice by prohibiting the interstate sale of both recreational and medical marijuana requires that the State of Hawaii provide necessary, appropriate, and reasonably safe medicines to the consuming public means that Hawaii must Produce its own Medical Marijuana or rely upon the Black Market that steals money from the people and from government coffers.

Although under the new Budget Bill recognizing and protecting medical marijuana from the Department of Justice, DEA, FBI and the US Attorney the prohibition of interstate transport would be difficult to enforce.

Prohibiting the infusion of trademarked products is probably illegal under Federal Law. The limitation on the size of the operation is possible but not prohibiting the legal name of a business.

The goal of Prohibiting the infusion of trademarked products must be accomplished by better language of law.

Hawaii should protect its Farming Economy by prohibiting the growing of hemp which is more economically sustainable in Kansas or Kentucky and concentrate on high quality pharmaceutical quality medical marijuana due to the Hawaii ability to produce World Class Home Grown Pakalolo.

Laboratory analysis is already regulated by the State and Federal Government redundancy is unnecessary, expensive, and bogus [just going along with established procedures, policies and practices; merely an expensive rubber stamp.]

The making of alcohol is permitted at home and is not tracked or monitored to any realistic extent.

Why would the State find it necessary to have greater regulations on a safer product that is constitutionally protected being an official medicine?

Why hasn't the State complied with the courts in applying the Constitutional and Legal protections to medical marijuana that they apply to all other medicines including birth control and abortions?

Hello, Neither the State nor the Federal Government has any restriction on growing opium poppies!

Both the State nor the Federal Government permits the home use and production of alcohol.

creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 10:00 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mminn811@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| M. Minn | Hawaiian Standard | Support | Yes |

Comments:

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: brentneal@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Brent Neal | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: I do not support HB 788 and would like to see it killed. Section 329-B(5) has great potential to be abused by law enforcement and perpetuates treating patients like criminals. I support patients continuing to have the right to cultivate their own medicine when that is a feasible option for them.

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 3:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: britneal@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Brittany Neal | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: I do not support HB 788 and would like to see it killed. I am concerned about 329-B(5) and the potential for it to be abused by law enforcement and to be able to continue to treat patients like criminals. Additionally I support patients continuing to have the right to cultivate their own medicine when that is a feasible option for them.

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:38 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: georgina808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Georgina Mckinley | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: I am opposed to HB788 because I do not believe that it is in the best interests of Hawaii patients who use cannabis medicinally.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: marilynmick@pobox.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Marilyn Mick | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: Position: I Oppose this bill. This bill does not offer any useful or necessary changes to the law, and creates confusion that will hurt patients and enforcement alike. Similarly, the prohibition on infusing trademarked products with marijuana is unnecessary and may stifle useful medical innovation. Aloha, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 7:27 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ngannora@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Annora Ng | Individual | Oppose | Yes |

Comments:

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 3:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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To: House Committee on Health

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

To: House Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Position: Opposition to HB 788 – Relating to Marijuana

FROM: Wendy Gibson R.N.

RE: Hearing, Saturday, February 07, 2015 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 329

Aloha Committee Chairs Belatti and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Creagan and San Buenaventura, and members of the Health and Judiciary committees,

I would very much like to see a well-regulated medical marijuana dispensary system created. I am opposed to HB788 because it is missing most of the key elements needed to accomplish that.

It allows for cultivation but does not attempt to address the issue of providing medical marijuana to qualifying patients. It would create a regulatory burden for the DOH, a burden that they do not need so soon after acquiring the administration duties of the medical marijuana program.

It also contains an unnecessary and confusing prohibition on the production of infused products.

This bill does not improve the current medical marijuana program and would create undue burdens on the Department of Health, so I do not support it.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson R.N./B.S.N.

creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:49 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: birthpang@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bobbie Pang | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: OPPOSE THIS BILL. By mainstreaming the use of another drug such as Marijuana in our State, this will not protect our families and the future of our peoples.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:39 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mountainswap@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lisa LeBrun | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: Aloha Chair and Vice Chair, I am submitting written testimony in strong opposition to HB788 regarding increased regulation to legalize marijuana. I will never forget visiting Amsterdam several times as a teen with my family. I was not raised in an overly-sheltered environment; but even I was disturbed by how "out of it" so many there seemed. I saw large groups just sitting outside, smoking marijuana and stoned, like zombies. Do we want this here? Do we want tourists in Waikiki seeing this? I live in Waikiki. You think you have a problem with homelessness now and the "sit/lie" situation – good luck with people that become addicted to marijuana and start to panhandle to support this habit even more than they already are, and become even less productive than ever. It is already so expensive to live here - why add one more thing that people will spend a LOT of their money on to support? Do you see how this will spill over into every part of our society, and this is not just "a small thing"? This will also adversely affect tourism, something we can't afford. There is undeniable evidence that marijuana is a "gateway drug" for people to use harder, more dangerous and life-threatening drugs. We already have a huge problem with ICE here in our islands, what on earth would justify adding to this cancer in our society by making marijuana even more easily available than it already is? This is a nightmare just waiting to happen. I beg of you, do not open this Pandora's box. Pay attention to how the Colorado governor himself – just one year after marijuana was legalized in his state - is now saying that it was a mistake. Please, let us learn from others' mistakes so that we do not make the same ones. Thank you. Lisa LeBrun

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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Mr. Rojelio Herrera Jr
94-368 Hakamoia St, Mililani HI
Judiciary and Health Committees
February 7, 2015
HB 321, HB 788, HB 1455, HB 794, HB 795, HB 993

CHAIRMAN RHOADES and CHAIRPERSON BELATTI

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

I am a father of 11 children who have all attended public schools. Eight of them have graduated or will graduate from Hawaii's public high schools. We decided to remain in Hawaii after my military career because the environment, we strongly believe, is one of the very best in the United States to raise children. However, in the issue of medical marijuana, as validated by numerous studies, poses a dangerous threat to our children. Respectfully, we can do better for the children of Hawaii.

The following studies point to a serious health risk that CANNOT be ignored.

1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has over 40 years of drug use data that shows lower perceived risk of harm by youth often results in increased use.
2. The recent 2014 Monitoring the Future (MTF) national school survey of drug use shows marijuana use my youth is still significantly higher than in 2008 and 2012. It also found that, of the youth surveyed, more youth (40%) in medical marijuana states had used an edible marijuana product in the last year than youth (26%) in non-medical marijuana states.
3. States with medical marijuana that allow both home cultivation and legal dispensaries show increases in marijuana use.ⁱ The increases in marijuana use are a concern as marijuana THC content and potency have also increased significantly. See for example:
http://news.olemiss.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4545%3Acannabispotency051409&Itemid=10
4. 1 in 6 minors who chronically use high-THC content marijuana become addicted and require intervention and/or treatment.ⁱⁱ In Hawaii, marijuana was identified as the primary substance used by a majority of adolescents, seventeen years of age and younger (62.4% in 2012), being admitted for drug treatment.ⁱⁱⁱ In Colorado, the Arapahoe House treatment network reported that teen admissions to treatment for marijuana use increased by 66% between 2011 and 2014.
5. Studies have linked marijuana use with mental illness, especially schizophrenia and psychosis. Marijuana use has also been linked with depression and anxiety.^{iv}
6. One of the most well designed studies on marijuana and intelligence,

released in 2012, found that persistent, heavy use of marijuana by adolescents reduces IQ by as much as eight points, when tested well into adulthood.^v

7. In the 2014 MTF survey, twelfth graders reported that driving after marijuana use has become more common than drinking and driving.
8. The Children's Hospital of Colorado Emergency Department reported that between 2008 and 2011, an average of four children (between the ages of 3 and 7) were sent to the emergency room for unintentional marijuana ingestion, and in just the first half of 2014, that number increased to 14 children.

In addition there are some key issues that remain unresolved in this legislation:

1. **Regulation and enforcement.** If home cultivation and dispensaries are allowed to operate side-by-side, how will both systems be regulated?
2. **Marijuana-related products.** The issue of marijuana-related products (e.g., candies, baked goods, drinks, or highly concentrated marijuana oils) has not been thoroughly studied and addressed. The manufacture of these products will greatly commercialize marijuana, which is supposed to only be allowed for debilitating medical conditions. These products will inevitably target our youth--no matter how they are required to be packaged. They will end up in our schools.
5. **Regulation of the number and location of dispensaries and grow sites. Cultivation and dispensary inventory limits.** Many issues are still unresolved, including how dispensary applications are even approved. Excess amounts may lead to distribution and use outside of the medical marijuana program.

Finally, I would like to propose that we provide our children the same protection from this drug as we do from alcohol. That is, we should make it a felony offense for promoting marijuana to minors, just as it is a felony offense to promote intoxicating liquor to a person under the age of twenty-one.

ⁱ Pacula, R.L., Powell, D., Heaton, P. Sevingy, E.L. (2013), Assessing the effects of medical marijuana laws on marijuana and alcohol use: The devil is in the details. Available: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w19302>

ⁱⁱ National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse. 2011. Topics in Brief: Marijuana. Available: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/topics-in-brief/marijuana>

ⁱⁱⁱ Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services Report, Hawaii, 10-Year Trends (2003-2012)

^{iv} Moore TH, Zammit S, Lingford-Hughes A, et al. Cannabis use and risk of psychotic or affective mental health outcomes: A systematic review. *Lancet* 370(9584):319–328, 2007. Also Large, M., Sharma S, Compton M., Slade, T. & O., N. (2011). Cannabis use and earlier onset of psychosis: a systematic meta-analysis. *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 68. Also see Arseneault L, et al. (2002). Cannabis use in adolescence and risk for adult psychosis: longitudinal prospective study. *British Medical Journal*. 325, 1212-1213.

^v Meier et al. (2012). Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:43 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: enyawrellim@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Wayne Miller | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2015 11:51 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: abennett@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aimee Bennett | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: The fact that marijuana is currently not 100% legal for medical use has allowed the father of my child to harass, vilify, & legally pursue me & has changed my life from a happy one to a difficult one. He has reported me for child abuse at least 4 times, knowing I have a prescription. Government \$\$\$ have been wasted investigating me 3 different times. If my prescription were legal, my parenting would no longer be challenged. It limits my ability to find work. The state would be rich if they followed Colorado's measures. Legalize safe medicine that would increase our state's revenue, please. Take away abusive parent's chance to victimize medical patients. This would really change my life, & allow for pursuit of happiness. Thank you.

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 3:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Angela Breene | Waihuena Farm | Oppose | No |

Comments: Please oppose HB788 as it creates confusion, overlaps, and potential for harm to small businesses and entrepreneurs. This is a poorly written bill that should be killed in committee. Mahalo

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 8:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Barbara Barry | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: Too much confusion and unnecessary!

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 11:56 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: blcloutier@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Brenda L. Cloutier | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Necessary for the creation and implementation of Medical Dispensaries.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: info@courtneybruch.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Courtney Bruch | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: This bill does not offer any useful or necessary changes to the law, and creates confusion that will hurt patients and enforcement alike. Similarly, the prohibition on infusing trademarked products with marijuana is unnecessary and may stifle useful medical innovation. More specifically: This bill creates confusion because it allows cultivation, but requires a different registration from the blue card. It doesn't allow cultivators of medical marijuana to get this material to patients. The bill also prohibits anyone "infusing any product with any medical marijuana if the product is registered with a trademark." This is not necessary as doing this commercially is already illegal as trademark infringement. The way this is worded will prevent people who develop new products containing medical cannabis to protect their intellectual property.

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 2:58 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dara Carlin, M.A. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joan@talkinghearts.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Joan Heartfield PhD | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

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creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 11:35 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lcaldwell12@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM*

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Larry Caldwell | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

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Testimony to the Joint House Committee on Health and Judiciary
Saturday, February 7, 2015; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NOS. 321, 788, 1455, 794, 795, AND 993

Chair Belatti, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Joint Committee on Health and Judiciary:

My name is Lei Learmont, and I am a resident of Wahiawa. I am testifying in strong OPPOSITION to all of the measures on today's agenda pertaining to medical marijuana and marijuana for the following reasons:

1. There should be enough time to educate physicians about marijuana and their uses. What they can use marijuana for, including the dosage, and if it would conflict with other medications taken by the patient. They should also be aware of side effects and any precautions (like other medications).
2. There should be educational courses for the growers, manufacturers, and dispensers ending with certification, and a continuing education program. If marijuana is to be used as a medical prescription, it should be treated the same as any prescribed drug.
3. The state monitors need to be experts about marijuana to be able to monitor the dispensaries, pharmacies, growers and manufacturers, so they can adequately monitor all those involved with marijuana.
4. For number of dispensaries, what percentage of the population is on medical marijuana that we need so many dispensaries? If the patients have not been registered, how do you know how many are on marijuana for medical reasons versus for comfort and recreation?
5. There needs to be strict policies regarding when a person should not be on marijuana if they may endanger their lives or others. I would hate to have a surgeon operate on me under the influence. If I were an employer, I would worry about workers who drive, operate machinery, having to have a very alert mind in their jobs.

Can all of the above be accomplished by January 1, 2017? These bills pose serious questions that should be addressed before enacting any legislation this year. For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you hold all these measures.

Testimony Offered for Saturday February 7, 2015, 10am
Heard by the Committee on Health and Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives, The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, Regular Session of 2015
Measure number 788
Testimony offered by:
Michelle Tippens
aka TheGoddessM
Staff Writer
Kaulana Na Pua Magazine

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the Judiciary and Health committees, my name is Michelle Tippens and I am a resident and active voter in Makiki, within the boundaries of the Ahupua'a of Honolulu, on the Island of O'ahu. I am a disabled veteran of the US Army, a single mother, a full time student (at Kapi'olani Community College, obtaining my third upper level degree), a journalist with a staff position at the Kaulana Na Pua Magazine and a medical marijuana patient. I have an extensive list of medical conditions and injuries, the highlights of which are composed of multiple traumatic brain injuries, a degenerative condition in my cerebellum and spine, fibromyalgia, multiple fractured vertebrae, PTSD and a ribcage so damaged I had to undergo surgery in order to have it wired back together and bone grafted in to facilitate healing. Medical marijuana has allowed me to manage my symptoms so effectively I have been able to discontinue the use of over 25 prescription medications, many of which I had been given for over a decade. Further, I have been able to recover my well-being and a significant portion of my lost mobility, as I had at one point been confined to the use of a walker for over 2 years having progressed from using a cane as my condition deteriorated. All of my conditions still affect me daily; however, therapeutic marijuana use has allowed me to engage in my life at a level beyond that dictated by my injuries and illnesses. That said, I would like to address the bill before the committee today regarding the cultivation of medical marijuana in the state of Hawaii, namely House Bill 788.

This bill seeks to establish an authorization process to allow people to grow medical marijuana. I am in support of this bill for several reasons, not the least of which is the potential for people to grow a crop upon which they can sustain a living wage to support their families while supplying medical marijuana to both medical marijuana dispensaries and certified medical marijuana patients in need of medicine. This translates into a bill that establishes a symbiotic relationship within the community between patients, growers and dispensaries, benefitting all. By allowing people to grow medical marijuana for this purpose, this bill literally creates jobs for the residents of the state of Hawaii, jobs that take minimal training and can be undertaken by any able-bodied individual.

In addition to the opportunity to create a source of economic relief for (potentially) thousands of Hawaiians, this bill is rooted in practicality. Even prior to contact by Captain Cook, the Hawaiian people recognized that some members of the community are more capable within different disciplines. Kahunas were appointed for lo'i fields, fish ponds, canoe fabrication, kapa beating, hula instruction and many other occupations. This fundamental understanding that some individuals are best suited to different skill sets should not be disregarded in our community today.

The fact is, many people like myself have injuries or medical conditions that make the sheer physical labor of growing marijuana a rather arduous task and many would prefer to be able to go to a store or a farmer to purchase their medication. Additionally, growers are often familiar with the strain selection and can offer guidance to patients. I am presented with questions daily regarding strain selection and oftentimes patients do not understand what they are looking for simply because the only information

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Testimony offered by:
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Kaulana Na Pua Magazine

they are able to draw from comes from mass media, which is a poor place from which to draw an education, in particular an education regarding one's health. Passing HB788 would also allow people who prefer to grow their own medicine at home to do so, while allowing others who choose to go to a licensed grower and purchase the medication they have decided is best for them. In reality, this bill simply looks to give the freedom to choose back to the people within the arena of medical marijuana.

Many people would like to try medical marijuana to see if it is an effective alternative to bottles of pills but do not feel the known up front costs to obtain and try medical marijuana outweigh the potential for benefit gained from its use. These 'costs' include, but are not limited to: finding/paying a doctor for an appointment, registering and paying for a license, finding a source for seeds (the sale and purchase of which is currently illegal, regardless of why) and growing the plant successfully before being able to simply try medical marijuana and see if it works for them. Once the patient undergoes all of this work, time and effort, if the marijuana is ineffective for their needs, the patient then has to make the decision to try the whole endeavor again with a different strain, meaning finding and buying more seeds (and breaking the law again), or simply to write off medical marijuana. Establishing licensed growers would allow these patients to obtain medicine with minimal initial effort and provide a source for medicine while the patient is in the process of growing their own, if they so desire. Without establishing a framework that allows for these growers, once a patient obtains a medical marijuana certification, they must wait months to legally grow their own medicine. Imagine receiving a prescription for high blood pressure and being told by the pharmacy the medicine takes 4 months to prepare and you have no other option but to wait without violating the law. What a horrible predicament to place a patient into!

A licensed grower framework would allow patients to obtain their doctor's recommendation and go to a grower to purchase medical marijuana to address their specific needs and medicative demands. This would also allow patients to return to the same place and have a realistic expectation regarding the quality of medical marijuana they purchase. This can only truly be assured when people are able to grow medical marijuana locally and offer it for certified patient purchase.

I would like to conclude by stating that I support HB788. While I may not believe this bill is flawless or the final solution to a rapidly shifting area within our society and culture, I believe this bill is an essential step toward indemnifying the people of the suffering they have endured using less natural methods to treat illnesses and chronic conditions. The beauty of a democratic legislative system is its plasticity, its ability to evolve with the demands of the people for freedom and the needs of the community for safety. As issues with the bill's implementation are isolated, amendments can be voted upon and enacted. I count myself blessed to live within a society that facilitates our ability as a community to create legislation and continue to adjust it as the need arises. I encourage the 2015 Legislature of Hawaii to enact HB788, and mahalo again for your attention during my testimony.

creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:48 PM
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB788 on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM

HB788

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 7, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| (Rev.) Cloudia Charters | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Mahalo for moving forward with these much needed measures. God Bless You

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Mr. Rojelio Herrera Jr
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Judiciary and Health Committees
February 7, 2015
HB 321, HB 788, HB 1455, HB 794, HB 795, HB 993

CHAIRMAN RHOADES and CHAIRPERSON BELATTI

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

I am a father of 11 children who have all attended public schools. Eight of them have graduated or will graduate from Hawaii's public high schools. We decided to remain in Hawaii after my military career because the environment, we strongly believe, is one of the very best in the United States to raise children. However, in the issue of medical marijuana, as validated by numerous studies, poses a dangerous threat to our children. Respectfully, we can do better for the children of Hawaii.

The following studies point to a serious health risk that CANNOT be ignored.

1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has over 40 years of drug use data that shows lower perceived risk of harm by youth often results in increased use.
2. The recent 2014 Monitoring the Future (MTF) national school survey of drug use shows marijuana use my youth is still significantly higher than in 2008 and 2012. It also found that, of the youth surveyed, more youth (40%) in medical marijuana states had used an edible marijuana product in the last year than youth (26%) in non-medical marijuana states.
3. States with medical marijuana that allow both home cultivation and legal dispensaries show increases in marijuana use.ⁱ The increases in marijuana use are a concern as marijuana THC content and potency have also increased significantly. See for example:
http://news.olemiss.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4545%3Acanna-bisipotency051409&Itemid=10
4. 1 in 6 minors who chronically use high-THC content marijuana become addicted and require intervention and/or treatment.ⁱⁱ In Hawaii, marijuana was identified as the primary substance used by a majority of adolescents, seventeen years of age and younger (62.4% in 2012), being admitted for drug treatment.ⁱⁱⁱ In Colorado, the Arapahoe House treatment network reported that teen admissions to treatment for marijuana use increased by 66% between 2011 and 2014.
5. Studies have linked marijuana use with mental illness, especially schizophrenia and psychosis. Marijuana use has also been linked with depression and anxiety.^{iv}
6. One of the most well designed studies on marijuana and intelligence,

released in 2012, found that persistent, heavy use of marijuana by adolescents reduces IQ by as much as eight points, when tested well into adulthood.^v

7. In the 2014 MTF survey, twelfth graders reported that driving after marijuana use has become more common than drinking and driving.
8. The Children's Hospital of Colorado Emergency Department reported that between 2008 and 2011, an average of four children (between the ages of 3 and 7) were sent to the emergency room for unintentional marijuana ingestion, and in just the first half of 2014, that number increased to 14 children.

In addition there are some key issues that remain unresolved in this legislation:

1. **Regulation and enforcement.** If home cultivation and dispensaries are allowed to operate side-by-side, how will both systems be regulated?
2. **Marijuana-related products.** The issue of marijuana-related products (e.g., candies, baked goods, drinks, or highly concentrated marijuana oils) has not been thoroughly studied and addressed. The manufacture of these products will greatly commercialize marijuana, which is supposed to only be allowed for debilitating medical conditions. These products will inevitably target our youth--no matter how they are required to be packaged. They will end up in our schools.
5. **Regulation of the number and location of dispensaries and grow sites. Cultivation and dispensary inventory limits.** Many issues are still unresolved, including how dispensary applications are even approved. Excess amounts may lead to distribution and use outside of the medical marijuana program.

Finally, I would like to propose that we provide our children the same protection from this drug as we do from alcohol. That is, we should make it a felony offense for promoting marijuana to minors, just as it is a felony offense to promote intoxicating liquor to a person under the age of twenty-one.

ⁱ Pacula, R.L., Powell, D., Heaton, P. Sevingy, E.L. (2013), Assessing the effects of medical marijuana laws on marijuana and alcohol use: The devil is in the details. Available: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w19302>

ⁱⁱ National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse. 2011. Topics in Brief: Marijuana. Available: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/topics-in-brief/marijuana>

ⁱⁱⁱ Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services Report, Hawaii, 10-Year Trends (2003-2012)

^{iv} Moore TH, Zammit S, Lingford-Hughes A, et al. Cannabis use and risk of psychotic or affective mental health outcomes: A systematic review. *Lancet* 370(9584):319–328, 2007. Also Large, M., Sharma S, Compton M., Slade, T. & O., N. (2011). Cannabis use and earlier onset of psychosis: a systematic meta-analysis. *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 68. Also see Arseneault L, et al. (2002). Cannabis use in adolescence and risk for adult psychosis: longitudinal prospective study. *British Medical Journal*. 325, 1212-1213.

^v Meier et al. (2012). Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
