

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**LATE**

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2462  
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

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

Hearing Date: Friday, January 31, 2020

Room Number: 229

**Fiscal Implications:** None identified.

**Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of this measure to support the medical use of cannabis by qualifying patients by requiring the Department to request a special use exemption from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration recognizing that the listing of marijuana as a federal schedule I controlled substance does not apply to Hawaii's medical cannabis program. However, it is the Department's understanding that 21 C.F.R. § 1308.35 precludes petitioning the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to reschedule or exempt any processed plant material containing any amount of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) that is used or intended for use for human consumption. Since medical use of cannabis in accordance with chapter 329, HRS, allows THC to be consumed, it follows that pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 1308.35, the Department cannot petition the DEA to exempt or reschedule cannabis.

Hawaii's medical cannabis program was very carefully structured to conform to guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Justice to afford Hawaii's qualifying patients appropriate protection of the law as a registered program participant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:15:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brent Norris	Testifying for Hawaii Patients Union	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:05:58 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Testifying for PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME strongly OPPOSE THIS BILL, SB2462. Cannabis should be REMOVED from the the federal list of controlled substances. Hawaii State rejected the federal marijuana prohibition in 2000, by landmark, first in the nation, legislative action, based on compassion.

However, for the last two decades, Hawaii has been enforcing laws UNEQUALLY upon cannabis consumers, sending some to jail for cannabis crimes, while selling other citizens, and visiting tourists, a "stay out of jail" card, from the "criminal activity" of consuming cannabis!

THIS VIOLATES HAWAII'S CITIZENS RIGHT TO EQUAL JUSTICE!

Cannabis consumers have been persecuted and prosecuted for generations, now Hawaii's cannabis patients are being abused for profits. Meanwhile, the opioid crisis and alcohol crisis in Hawaii continues to worsen, while citizens die.

Hawaii's PAY-TO-PAY, vertically-integrated, seed-to-sale, medical cannabis monopoly, is operated like a mafia "protection from prosecution" racket, instead of a compassionate health care program.

Poor patients are priced out of the system. While anyone with money can buy a certification, no matter what their actual physical condition, rendering any medical research completely unreliable

Hawaii needs a real medical cannabis program, AND an adult use program; two separate programs, not the "DUAL-Use" closed-program, as discussed in legislative

meetings, and outlined in SB 686 SD1, which would give the entire adult-use market to the dispensary monopoly.

Hawaii's adult-use market should be legalized just as it has been operating for generations; which is thousands of small cannabis entrepreneurs, growing, processing, packaging and delivering world-famous brands of Hawaiian cannabis, and should be regulated like any other Hawaii businesses.

Hawaii's cannabis industry should not be ripped from the hands of the thousands of local growers that support their families, and communities by growing cannabis.

Why would you place cannabis, or hemp, into the greedy hands of new-comer corporations, (like Arcadia Biosciences from California, and VAPEN MJ from Canada, and Archipelago Ventures from Delaware, and Legacy Ventures Hawaii, from Nevada), instead of supporting small local businesses?

Brian Murphy, Director  
PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME



## **Akamai Cannabis Clinic**

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304  
Honolulu, HI 96816

### **TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2462 RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

By  
Clifton Otto, MD

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

Friday, January 31, 2020; 9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

### **STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. Please consider the following comments related to this bill:

It is very encouraging to see Senator Ruderman's federal exemption bill come before your committee. Our patients and dispensaries have been suffering for far too long under the misapplication of the federal Schedule I regulation of the non-medical use of marijuana to our medical cannabis program.

Forcing our patients and dispensaries to operate under the assumption that they are violating federal law in order to engage in the state-authorized medical use of cannabis in Hawaii is causing numerous harmful consequences.

These injuries include **patients** not being able to obtain employment because of a positive cannabis drug screening test, being terminated from employment because of failing a cannabis urine drug test that is not designed to test for impairment in the workplace, being evicted from federally subsidized housing, not being able to obtain life insurance, not being able to enjoy the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act, being discriminated against in child custody hearings, not being able to travel to other islands with their medicine, not being able to obtain firearms for home protection and hunting.

"An Accepted Medical Use Supporter"

In addition, our **dispensaries** are suffering from not being able to carry on normal banking activity, having to conduct a majority of their transactions in cash, not being able to enjoy standard business expense deductions which is creating a 70%+ tax burden that only raises product costs for patients, and not being able to conduct medical research with the University of Hawaii System.

Our patients and dispensaries should not be required to operate under the false assumption that they are violating federal law in order to engage in the medical use of cannabis in Hawaii.

The State of Hawaii created this situation when it lawfully decided that cannabis has medical use in Hawaii, which means that the State cannot simply wait for Congress to fix a problem that it created. We can no longer stand for the federal regulation that has the non-medical use of marijuana on the Schedule I list being unconstitutionally applied to our medical cannabis program.

The amendment contained in this bill offers a simple but powerful means for correcting the misconception that our patients and dispensaries are violating federal law, using an established DEA administrative process, with an existing precedent of a very similar federal Schedule I exemption that was recognized decades ago for members of the Native American Church in order to prevent the very injuries that our medical cannabis patients and dispensaries are experiencing today.

At the very least, our state needs to take action on this issue in order to demonstrate a willingness to prevent any further harm, and to open the door to the kind of regulatory oversight and medical research that can only occur once the criminal perception of our program is removed.

Thank you for considering this very necessary amendment.

Aloha.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 7:30:18 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miles W. Tuttle	Testifying for Kush Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [Andrea Stoebenau](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support for SB2462  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 11:23:54 AM

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Aloha,

Personal experience testimony-

I am a 46 year old woman who has been diagnosed with both herniated discs in my low back, as well as degenerative disc disease. Both are chronic conditions, requiring pain management. Medical cannabis has allowed me to manage pain and reduce inflammation without concern for addiction to opiates.

Strong Support. Please allow SB2462 to pass through your committee.

Mahalo,

Andréa Stoebenau  
Honolulu, HI

--

Andréa L Stoebenau  
808-372-7893



**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:43:09 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Wheelock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Senators Rosalyn Baker, Chair and Stanley Chang, Vice Chair,

Please support SB2462 relating to controlled substances. This bill requests that the medical use of cannabis in Hawaii be exempted from the DEA's Controlled Substance Schedule I status.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anne Wheelock, R.Ph, M.S.

**From:** [Amy Stafford](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB2462  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:15:49 AM

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Strong support. Please allow for SB2462 to pass through your committee.

David Stafford  
68-3703Ua Loa Place  
Waikoloa, HI 96738

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:39:02 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a senior citizen and lifelong Hawai'i resident-- and a medical cannabis user -- I support this bill.

**From:** [Eric Shearer](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2462  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:19:19 AM

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Aloha,

I strongly support SB2462 so that we can address this important issue. It's about medicine. Full stop. Our kupuna should not live in fear of legal jeopardy because of wrong-headed policy based on outdated views that improperly stigmatized a genuine medical solution.

Mahalo for your clear-sightedness and leadership in doing the right thing.

Eric Shearer

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:37:04 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is still a Drug. I have lost many Friends that wasted away on MJ

**From:** [Jack Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB2462  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:43:56 AM

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This bill is so important for people use cannabis for medical purposes (my self included).  
Please allow the bill to through committee and be actively debated in the full Senate.

Mahalo nui

Jack Zimmerman

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:53:47 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Vincenti	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

My interest in the passing of an amendment (SB2426), which would remove medical marijuana from the Schedule I list (and/or *exemption* for MM patients), stems from my career as an RN, which included four years with The Salvation Army (Oahu) as the head Detox and Recovery nurse, and seven years as a legal nurse. As a nurse, I fully understand the Schedule I-IV table, however an oxymoron exists if infact the current *definition* of Schedule continues to exist. A generic definition of Schedule I drugs is: *drugs, substances, or chemicals that are defined by the federal government as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Schedule 1 (I) drugs are the most dangerous drugs of all the drug schedules with potentially severe psychological or physical dependence.*" More importantly, my experience as a patient with decades of diagnoses (which includes MS and chronic pain syndrome), led to years of treatment with prescription narcotics (Schedule II) during the many years it took to pass laws giving me the legal right to an alternative (and more holistic) approach to treatment. During the times I received opioid treatment I was treated like a common street addict (for years) while under the treatment of a pain management specialist who drug tested me every month (when/where cannabis had not yet been legalized hence impossible to utilize under those circumstances), as well as the stigma that goes along with patients dependent on long term treatment for chronic pain.

Chronic pain, and many other health conditions that burden our healthcare, workforce, Social Security Disability, regulatory, and enforcement systems (to name a few), when managed by more holistic means, in the long run, saves both lives and money. Due to the huge opioid crisis that has been growing with each passing year, patients left without treatment when pharmacies stopped stocking the necessary medication, often go on to self-medicate, thus increasing the danger; and these are *schedule II* drugs, second to Schedule I drugs! Our society can only benefit from the knowledge and the opportunity to do so under regulations/laws that do not demonize or criminalize the patient that have certain *inalienable rights* and are following the law. Sometimes it isn't the patient who needs to seek resolution elsewhere, but rather the laws be reviewed and changed when obvious, necessary and for the good of the patient. Due to my extensive knowledge as both an addiction treatment nurse and a patient with decades long (40+) treatment with pharmaceutical/prescription medication, I was keenly aware

that the necessary medication needed to maintain optimal health had become increasingly unavailable due to the dwindling number of specialists and pharmacies who were detaching themselves (and their businesses) from the growing, negative controversy (and lawlessness) affiliated with medications abused by many, including pharmaceutical companies, prescribers, patients, addicts and drug dealers.

My personal experience as a Medical Marijuana patient allowed me to successfully transition from Schedule II narcotic medication to the utilization of Medical Marijuana during the availability issues of any Schedule II medication. In light of the medication abuse epidemic, it is critical that the role Marijuana has played in the past and present, be up-righted so that the future doesn't include the ten steps forward and twenty steps back mentality, no matter what the source.

Please consider the discontinuation of the negative consequences any patient suffers when red tape gets in the way of medical science (and all the benefits that come from a more natural solution) and help point this cause in the direction and flexibility (for change) it deserves so that continued research can support what the masses have been trying to convey for centuries. This is a healthcare matter; let's not keep it a potentially criminal one. Thank you for your time and anticipated consideration to this testimony towards necessary change. Janet Vincenti, RN, LNC (Retired)



**From:** [JV](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB2462  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 2:09:42 PM

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Please allow SB2462 to pass through your committee.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 4:43:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support total legalization!

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:30:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

January 29, 2020

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Fr: Teri Freitas Gorman, Maui resident

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2462 ~~2024~~

RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Requires by September 1, 2020 that the department of health request the Drug Enforcement Administration to grant a federal schedule 1 exemption for the medical use of cannabis in Hawai'i

Aloha 'oukou. **I submit my testimony today as a private citizen**, not in my capacity as an executive at one of the state's licensed medical dispensaries or as the current board chair for the state's cannabis industry association.

I have no formal legal education or training in the complexities of Federal and State law, but in light of the fact that 33 states and 4 out of 5 American territories now sanction the medical use of cannabis in some form, it is incomprehensible that the federal regulation that has the non-medical use of marijuana listed in Schedule I is still being applied to lawfully enacted state medical cannabis programs.

Because the authority to decide the medical use of controlled substances is reserved to the states, our state, along with many others, decided to create a state-regulated medical cannabis program whose constitutionality has never been challenged by the U.S. Department of Justice. The problem is the perception that our program is violating federal law

SB2462 requires our Department of Health to obtain an exemption from the DEA recognizing that the federal Schedule I regulation of the non-medical use of marijuana does not apply to our medical cannabis program. The recognition of such an exemption is not unprecedented.

For example, the listing of peyote as a controlled substance in Schedule 1 does not apply to the nondrug use of peyote in bona fide religious ceremonies of the Native American Church, so peyote used by church members is exempt from federal Schedule 1 regulation. *Title 21 Federal Code of Regulation, §1307.31 (Native American Church)*.

Hawai'i is not alone in considering a federal exemption for its medical cannabis program. The Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Board's 2019 Annual Report includes this recommendation: *"The Board considered a petition to recommend that the Department of Public Health ask the federal DEA to recognize Iowa's Medical Cannabidiol Program as exempt from federal drug laws, which the Board approved."* (page 4)

In 2000, Hawai'i legislators established national leadership by deciding that cannabis has medical use in the Aloha State. Two decades later, we can reclaim that leadership position by obtaining from the federal government formal recognition that Hawaii's Medical Use of Cannabis Act is constitutional, and that the federal designation of non-medical use of cannabis on the federal Schedule I list cannot be lawfully, or morally, applied to our medical cannabis program

I humbly request that you consider moving this bill forward on behalf Hawai'i's medical cannabis program participants. Mahalo for the opportunity to share my mana'o with you.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:13:47 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Marijuana should be fully legal in Hawaii and all 50 states many consider it a life-saving medicine and a way to explore the human consciousness.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:36:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson. I'm an RN who has worked in healthcare in Hawaii for 26 years and became a medical cannabis patient advocate 6 years ago. I strongly support SB2462 and hope that you will too.

Please support SB2462 to help resolve the misconception that Hawaii's acceptance of the use of cannabis as medicine (back in 2000) is in violation of federal law. Medical cannabis patients face stigmatization and discrimination in many aspects of their daily lives because of this misconception.

I've witnessed patients who have been forced to choose between keeping a job that they love and using an herbal medication that happened to be the ONLY medication that worked for them. I've witnessed hospitalized patients be denied use of their medicine while they were in-house because healthcare professionals were ignorant of how to integrate cannabis into the patient's treatment plan and/or feared Federal Scrutiny and the loss of Federal funds.

Removal of cannabis (Marijuana) from the Schedule I drug category is appropriate. A drug is properly classified in Schedule I only if the drug has NO currently accepted medical treatment use in the U.S. Clearly, that is not the case. Currently, there are 34 States in the US who recognize the medicinal use of cannabis and another 14 States that recognize the medicinal use of CBD, a component of cannabis.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Wendy Gibson R.N./BSN, American Cannabis Nurses Association member

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:44:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Me	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is simply a request that the AG asks for an exemption of schedule 1 for medical cannabis. When cannabis is removed from schedule 1 at the state or federal level it opens up the doors for research. I am in strong support of this bill

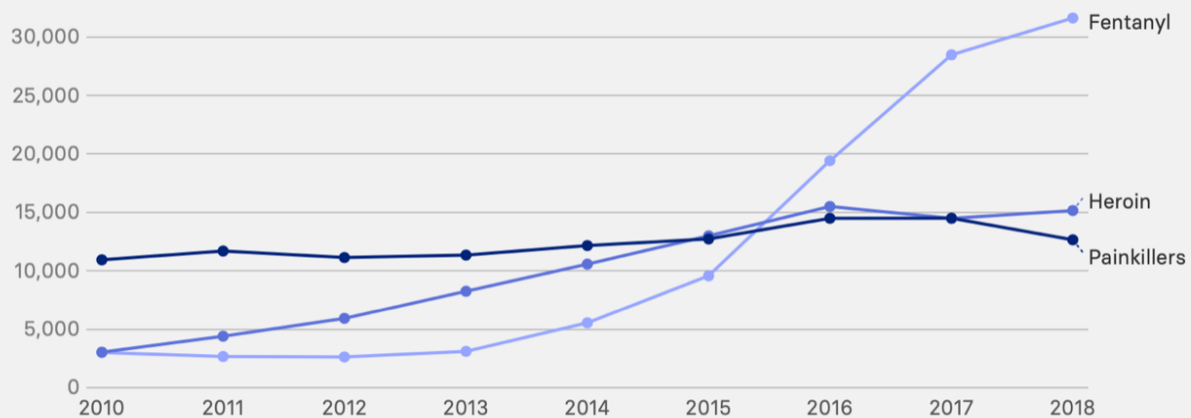
January 29, 2020

## Aloha friends and Honorable Public Representatives,

CNN announced Russian President Vladimir Putin pardoned Naama Issachar, an American-Israeli woman jailed in Russia on drug charges, the Kremlin said in a statement Wednesday. A dual American-Israeli citizen, Issachar has been imprisoned in Moscow since April when she was stopped at the airport with 9.5 grams of cannabis in her checked luggage.

I'm an expert on public health and a legal Medical Cannabis patient. There are about 30,000+ medical cannabis patients in Hawai'i. All of us live in fear. I have been working to reduce OD deaths due to opioid drugs. When my medical team recommended I consider opioids, I choose the more safe alternative: cannabis. Nearly 500,000 Americans died from opioids since 2010.

### US Drug Overdose Deaths — Opioids



\* Fentanyl includes all fentanyl analogs, e.g. carfentanyl, fluorofentanyl, etc.

Chart: BuzzFeed News / Vergano • Source: CDC

Unlike Ms. Issahar, I was acting legally in Hawai'i, as the State of Hawai'i authorized medical cannabis in 2000. When hired by Hawaiian Electric, checked their corporate Code of Conduct — signed by HEI CEO Constance H. Lau.

**Thank you for your dedication and commitment to carrying out our company's core values and contributing to the success of the HEI companies.**

Jeffrey N. Watanabe  
HEI Chairman of the Board

Constance H. Lau  
HEI President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
ASB and HECO Chairman of the Board

Alan M. Oshima  
HECO President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Richard F. Wacker  
ASB President and  
Chief Executive Officer

\*Note: This Code of Conduct is identical to the version dated May 19, 2017 other than to reflect ASB compliance officer changes.



Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc.  
American Savings Bank, F.S.B.  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.  
Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.  
Maui Electric Company, Limited





January 29, 2020

My medication is “legal” and “prescribed,” and per their Code, I’m in compliance. I never “reported to work under the influence of alcohol or drugs.” Used only at night prior to bed to control my severe chronic pain.

- d. Reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or drugs, drinking alcoholic beverages (other than as permitted at functions or events approved by your respective Company President), possession or the unprescribed use or distribution of any controlled substance or illegal drug, or any other illegal act which occurs on work premises (including any non-Company site where you are performing work on behalf of the Company) or during your work hours (including meal breaks or rest periods) or which interferes with work performance.\*

On February 14, 2019, HR Rep Liz Deer told me I would “be fine” after I disclosed my HIPAA-protected medical history and disability to her. The company fired me two weeks later. Company attorneys, Thao Tran and Susan Li, claimed they had no knowledge of my medical authorization or injuries — although Straub Occupational Health Services, Michael M. Kusaka, MD, notified the company February 19th.

HECO IT Security notified me the company hired me February 20th. I told coworkers, friends and family. The company fired me five days later. Incompetence? Lack of humanitarianism? Pushing people to use opioids drugs?

Their attorney, Joseph A. Ernst, advised employers in Hawai’i to update their medical cannabis policies August 14, 2019. HEI CEO Lau didn’t heed his warning. She allowed confusion surrounding this issue.

Now, Russian President Putin demonstrates “humanitarian” behavior to a female foreign visitor while CEO Lau and Hawaiian Electric leaders punishe an American male. Recently applied for the position I held last year. Notified today the company refused me (again):

\*\*\*\*\*

Aloha Scott,

Thank you for applying for the Database Analyst position with Hawaiian Electric Company Inc. At this time, we regret to inform you that the position was either filled or cancelled.

Please visit our website and follow us on LinkedIn to explore and apply for future employment opportunities. We appreciate your interest in employment with us and wish you well in your career endeavors.

Mahalo,  
HR Recruiting Team

\*\*\*\*\*

January 29, 2020

Russia treats HUMAN BEINGS better than CEO Connie Lau and Hawaiian Electric. Ms. Lau chairs the board of Consuelo Foundation.

## Board of Directors



### Constance H. Lau Chair

Connie Lau is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiian Electric Industries, one of Hawaii's largest public companies, and chairs the boards of its two operating subsidiaries, Hawaiian Electric Company and American Savings Bank. Born and raised in Honolulu, Connie has been with the HEI companies for over 30 years. Connie is involved in many organizations both in Hawaii and worldwide. Some of the organizations and community activities Connie is involved with are: Matson, a major

Philosophy of Consuelo Zobel de Ayala y Montojo Terrentegui Zambrano Alger: "What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love."

Russian President Putin showed LOVE to this young woman. CEO Constance Hee Lau and Hawaiian Electric showed me only contempt — and after six months of service excellence, kicked me to their corporate exit! My manager and team considered me both a "perfect fit" and an outstanding employee.

Since Ms. Issachar's arrest, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly pleaded Issachar's case with Putin, asking the Russian President to pardon her and allow her to return to Israel. "I thank my friend, President Putin, on his granting of a pardon to Naama Issachar," he said. "I expect we will meet tomorrow and we will discuss the deal of the century and the recent regional developments."

Since my loss of employment, I repeatedly begged my U.S. Representative, Tulsi Gabbard, to speak with CEOs Lau and Oshima. She's friends with these leaders!

January 29, 2020

Apparently, Tulsi is snowboarding in New Hampshire and too busy to help a man and his struggling family. StarAd reports, "Democratic presidential candidate Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, snowboards with supporters and staff at Cranmore Mountain Resort on Tuesday in North Conway, N.H."



January 29, 2020



Many of Tulsi's supporters smoke a bit of *pakalolo* as they ride the mountain. Snowboarders and surfers are known to use a *wee bit* of cannabis. Tulsi loves to surf and snowboard. She's part of this culture, but she won't help out her loyal supporter, medical patient and constituent here in Hawai'i. Why is that?

Men HELP women in America and around the world; Women in America do not help men!!! There are some 30,000+ Medical Cannabis patients in Hawai'i. Why are America's Female Leaders lacking humanitarian character — particularly toward males?

Join me to make a BETTER world for ALL Americans this year. Let's end the corruption, deception, misandry and racism surrounding Medical Cannabis.

Thank you for your time! Mahalo nui loa!

Sincerely,

Scott Goold  
1778 Ala Moana Blvd., 2520  
Honolulu, HI 96815

January 29, 2020

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ADDED THROUGH LEGISLATIVE WEB PORTAL

Aloha Honorable State Leaders,

I am a skilled IT professional. This classifies me as a "non-safety-sensitive" employee. Hawaiian Electric initially hired me as a contractor Aug 2018. They did not drug screen me or hundreds of other contractors. How about the safety of coworkers or the public? Hawaiian Electric does not care!

My performance was excellent. Adored my manager; respected my coworkers. We had a perfect fit. The team offered me a permanent, internal position Feb 2019. Due to painful injuries, I have been a medical cannabis patient for a number of years. My medical team offered opioid drugs. I'm also a certified CARS -- community addictions recovery specialist. I am trained by the University of New Mexico School of Medicine to help reduce the opioid epidemic, which has led to the deaths of some 500,000 Americans since 2010. I refused opioid prescription medication.

I checked Hawaiian Electric policy. My medication is legal and prescribed. I appeared to be in compliance. I asked HR. Rep Liz Deer told me Feb 14th I would "be fine." Hawaiian Electric HR and IT Security confirmed my hire on Feb 20th. I informed family, friends and coworkers of the fantastic news.

On Feb 25, 2019, Hawaiian Electric fired me for my use of Medical Cannabis. I'm a public health expert who is using a prescription drug proven more safe than opioids and many other pain analgesics. I used only at night. Never before or during work. I was never impaired or intoxicated. Hawaiian Electric staff and management observed me closely for over six months. They knew me as a highly-skilled professional. This is who I am. Yet Hawaiian Electric fired me and labeled me a "Drug Thug." I can't get employment now.

How is it possible in the 21st century that we discriminate against "smart" people and listen to the deceptions of evil people about cannabis? We are better human beings than this. There is no need to treat "non-safety-sensitive" employees in this manner.

Please protect non-safety-sensitive employees. Time to end this discrimination. Thank you for yur time. Appreciate your help, care and concern.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:17:09 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly OPPOSE THIS BILL, SB2462. Cannabis should be REMOVED from the the federal list of controlled substances. Hawaii State rejected the federal marijuana prohibition in 2000, by landmark, first in the nation, legislative action, based on compassion.

However, for the last two decades, Hawaii has been enforcing laws UNEQUALLY upon cannabis consumers, sending some to jail for cannabis crimes, while selling other citizens, (and visiting tourists), a "stay out of jail" card, from the "criminal activity" of consuming cannabis!

THIS VIOLATES HAWAII'S CITIZENS RIGHT TO EQUAL JUSTICE!

Cannabis consumers have been persecuted and prosecuted for generations, now Hawaii's cannabis patients are being abused for profits. Meanwhile, the opioid crisis and alcohol crisis in Hawaii continues to worsen, while citizens die.

Hawaii's PAY-TO-PAY, vertically-integrated, seed-to-sale, medical cannabis monopoly, is operated like a mafia "protection from prosecution" racket, instead of a compassionate health care program.

Poor patients are priced out of the system. While anyone with money can buy a certification, no matter what their actual physical condition, rendering any medical research completely unreliable

Hawaii needs a real medical cannabis program, AND an adult use program; two separate programs, not the "DUAL-Use" closed-program, as discussed in legislative meetings, and outlined in SB 686 SD1, which would give the entire adult-use market to the dispensary monopoly.

Hawaii's adult-use market should be legalized just as it has been operating for generations; which is thousands of small cannabis entrepreneurs, growing, processing, packaging and delivering world-famous brands of Hawaiian cannabis, and should be regulated like any other Hawaii businesses.

Hawaii's cannabis industry should not be ripped from the hands of the thousands of local growers that support their families, and communities by growing cannabis.

Why would you place cannabis, or hemp, into the greedy hands of new-comer corporations, (like Arcadia Biosciences from California, and VAPEN MJ from Canada, and Archipelago Ventures from Delaware, and Legacy Ventures Hawaii, from Nevada), instead of supporting small local businesses?

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Pettus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

January 30, 2020

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2462

I strongly support this measure.

The misapplication of Schedule 1 restrictions to the medical use of cannabis in Hawaii has damaged Hawaii's medical cannabis patients and dispensaries, and has been an impediment to much-needed research.

To properly qualify for Schedule 1 status, "The **drug** or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." Clearly, under Hawaii's law (as in the laws of 30 states) cannabis DOES HAVE currently accepted medical use in treatment, so the application of Schedule 1 restrictions to the medical use of cannabis in treatment in Hawaii is legally unsupported.

Please pas SB2462 through your committee so that it can continue to move through review and approval, to rectify the discrepancies and harms arising from the misapplication of Schedule 1 policies to the medical use of cannabis in treatment in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

David Pettus

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the medical use of cannabis in treatment

**From:** [Richard Robel](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB2462  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:27:54 AM

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Please allow SB2462 to pass through your committee.  
Sent from my iPad

**LATE**

**From:** [marjorie classen](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support of SB2462  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 8:55:06 AM

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Please support the SB2462 bill. As a cancer survivor and wife of a Viet Nam Vet, I know the value of this herb.

The importance of removing the stigma from use is imperative to dignity.

Thank You,

Marjorie Classen

Big Island



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**LATE**

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:28:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Testifying for Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

DPFH appreciates the intention of this bill, but history counsels that the DEA is less than amenable to providing the type of administrative relief contemplated here.

DPFH emphatically supports the removal of cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act.

**SB-2462**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 8:17:28 AM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edgar Espero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: