



**DEPT. COMM. NO. 177**

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 3, 2020

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
Senate President  
Hawaii State Legislature  
415 South Beretania St., 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker of the House  
Hawaii State Legislature  
415 South Beretania St., Room 431  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker,

**Regarding Act No. 273 (2019), Marijuana Evaluation Task Force.**

Act No. 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, established a marijuana evaluation task force to examine other states' laws, penalties, and outcomes pertaining to marijuana use, other than marijuana use for medical purposes, and make recommendations on amending marijuana use penalties and outcomes in the State. The recommendations of the task force are due to the legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the 2021 regular session.

Act 273 took effect January 11th, 2020, and the task force was expected to convene following the close of the 2020 legislative session. However, certain obstacles, most notably those related to the COVID-19 pandemic which both closed the State Capitol and caused the legislature to be convened in extended emergency sessions, prevented the task force from convening for a discussion on the issue with enough time to produce a meaningful report.

Accordingly, the task force will be unable to meet the reporting deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karl Rhoads".

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Lee".

Representative Chris Lee  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary