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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1952 HD1
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 02/09/2024

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (department) Office of Medical Cannabis
3 Control and Regulation (OMCCR) respectfully OPPOSES HB1952 HD1 which amends section
4 329D-10 subsection (d) to require that "All rules adopted pursuant to this section shall be
5 adopted no later than nine months after a product is permitted to be manufactured and distributed
6 pursuant to subsection (a)." Specifying a time limit for rulemaking is not only unfair to the
7 program, doing so could jeopardize the health and safety of patients and the public.

8 OMCCR is responsible for registration of qualifying patients for medical use of cannabis;
9 licensing and inspecting dispensary operations and medicinal cannabis products; and, since May
10 2023, hemp processor registration and regulation of hemp-cannabinoid consumer products. The
11 legislature provided OMCCR with four (4) additional positions to support the newly acquired
12 hemp responsibilities, but funding for these does not begin until FY25. As such, all the duties
13 pertaining to the dispensary licensing and hemp regulation is being managed by the Medical
14 Cannabis Dispensary Licensing Section (MCDLS).

15 MCDLS has a total of seven (7) staff. A Program Specialist VI (Supervisor), an Office Assistant
16 IV, and five (5) Surveyors. Together these staff are responsible for inspecting each of 37
17 licensed facilities, reviewing product manufacturing and packaging, overseeing compliance with
18 laboratory testing, inventory tracking, security requirements, investigating patient complaints,

1 responding to inquiries, and open records requests, and revising Chapter 11-850, HAR. In
2 addition, these staff are now also responsible for reviewing and approving requests for
3 dispensary-to-dispensary sales, registering hemp processors, and revising Chapter 11-37, HAR.

4 Act 108 SLH 2023 was an omnibus medical cannabis bill that included numerous changes to
5 Chapter 329D, HRS. It provided for a "waiting room" area at retail dispensaries to support
6 patient access. It added pre-rolled cannabis flower products as an allowed manufactured product
7 form. It allowed retail locations to have two signs instead of only one. It provided for dispensary-
8 to-dispensary sales. It placed a 2.5% limit on annual increases to license renewal fees. It
9 authorized the department to approve colored lettering on product packaging. It authorized the
10 department to allow construction and maintenance workers to enter dispensary facilities without
11 a background check with proper supervision. It clarified the fining authority for violations. And
12 it required the department to conduct an education and outreach program. Most of these changes
13 require revision of Chapter 11-850, HAR.

14 In addition, Act 263 SLH 2023 was an omnibus hemp bill that included numerous changes to
15 Chapter 328G, HRS. It clarified that Chapter 328G applies only to processing of hemp biomass
16 into certain forms and their sale and distribution. It added new definitions, including a restrictive
17 definition of "Manufactured hemp product" which is currently preventing the department from
18 approving new product forms. It changed registration of hemp processors to a permit system and
19 added a requirement that the department conduct background checks for applicants who are not
20 USDA hemp cultivator license holders. It added additional standards for hemp crude extract and
21 manufactured products. And, most importantly, it specified that no manufactured products or
22 crude extract could be sold without rules pursuant to Chapter 328G.

23 Despite these challenges, MCDLS successfully completed an amendment of Chapter 11-850 and
24 submitted it to the Office of the Lt. Governor for consideration and approval on July 14, 2023,
25 just 13 calendar days after the July 1, 2023 effective date of Act 108. The revised rules became
26 effective on August 7, 2023. The amendments included: establishing standards for dispensary-to-
27 dispensary sales of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products; reducing the required number

1 of employees for transport of cannabis and manufactured cannabis products from two employees
2 to one employee; clarifying transport requirements for inter-dispensary shipments; applying the
3 THC dosage and per package limits in place for manufactured products to edible products;
4 allowing dispensary licensees to post up to two signs; establishing standards for entry of
5 infrastructure workers to dispensary facilities; and clarifying violation fees.

6 MCDLS prioritized the implementation of the dispensary-to-dispensary sales because the
7 dispensary licensees had emphasized that these were needed and because the program believes
8 that this would greatly benefit patients by giving patients a wider variety of product options,
9 previously limited by what the dispensaries on their island produce, and by streamlining
10 manufacturing, result in lower product costs. MCDLS chose to defer implementing pre-rolls to
11 provide adequate time to research the various considerations to best serve patients as well as
12 protect their health. These include what type of paper to allow, the weight content, requiring a
13 filter, allowed additives, flavorings, etc. This research has been ongoing since the Act 108
14 became effective and would have significantly delayed implementation of dispensary-to-
15 dispensary sales. Dispensary licensees have been informed of these decisions from the start.

16 Immediately after the revised Chapter 11-850 amendments were submitted for approval,
17 MCDLS shifted to revisions of Chapter 11-37, HAR. As stated above, without revised rules,
18 hemp processors would not be able to apply for or renew processing permits and existing
19 processors are unable to sell crude extract. The draft revised rules have been completed and are
20 currently being reviewed. We are hopeful the rules will be ready to submit for approval by the
21 end of February, at which time we will return to another revision of Chapter 11-850 to allow for
22 manufacturing of pre-rolls.

23 OMCCR fully understands the legislature's interest is having legislative changes implemented
24 quickly. However, OMCCR has limited resources. While MCDLS conducts all the research into
25 the rule changes, we must pay a staff person from another program 40 hours of overtime per
26 month to convert everything into Ramseyer format, cross-check for potential interaction or
27 impact with other rules, and prepare and submit the revision request documents. This is the only

1 way OMCCR was able to complete four (4) revisions of Chapter 11-850 over the past two years
2 while ensuring our function of maintaining patient safety, product safety, and public safety as
3 guiding principles. Placing a strict time limit for rulemaking on the program will require us to
4 prioritize rulemaking over these other program priorities to the detriment of patients and the
5 public. OMCCR asks that HB1952 HD1 be deferred.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.

8

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
Members of the Health & Homelessness Committee

Fr: TY Cheng, Chairman, Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association

Re: Testimony **In SUPPORT of House Bill (HB) 1952**

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

Amends the circumstances under which medical cannabis may be transported by and between dispensaries. Requires the Department of Health to adopt rules.

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association (HICIA) is an industry group representing medical cannabis dispensary licensee interests in Hawaii. HICIA **SUPPORTS HB1952** as this bill may affect the medical cannabis dispensary program by expediting wholesale transactions between existing medical cannabis dispensary licensees and allowing the sale of cannabis products (i.e. prerolls) previously approved by legislators.

The Department of Health (the "DOH") has been reluctant to support the medical cannabis program. The DOH did not implement rules in accordance with the legislative wishes of lawmakers and previously passed laws. Instead, the DOH has either implemented rules which are not within the spirit of the law (i.e. requiring conditions on when and why a wholesale transaction between licenses may occur); or have wholly disregarded newly passed laws (i.e. leaving out rules on allowing preroll sales and allowing members of the public to enter a dispensary lobby when assisting a disabled 329 patient). HB1952 addresses the glaring unilateral additions and omissions by requiring the DOH to issue rules in a timely manner. In previous testimony, the DOH admits to an institutional culture of anti-smoking which prevented them from issuing rules to allow for the manufacture and sale of cannabis prerolls even though the legislature amended the law to allow for prerolls as a manufactured cannabis product in 2022.

The DOH is an administrator and should not pick and choose what laws to implement when such laws are duly ratified because it does not agree with the policies of the legislative branch.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am available in person for any questions.

Aloha,

TY Cheng



Akamai Cannabis Consulting

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1952 HD1
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

By
Clifton Otto, MD

House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, February 9, 2024; 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 329 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to provide COMMENTS on this measure.

The department needs to have discretion over wholesaling between dispensaries, because wholesaling cannabis between certain islands violates interstate commerce. The department should be able to determine the extent to which it will participate in these activities, to include not participating at all.

The same should hold true for issuing rules for the sale of unhealthy dispensary products. The Legislature erred when it added Prerolls (Marijuana Cigarettes) to the list of allowed dispensary products because encouraging patients to engage in smoking violates the department's mission to protect the public health.

In addition, if a patient does not have the manual dexterity to roll a joint, then they probably also don't have the manual dexterity to safely hold a joint, which means that Prerolls are a [fire hazard](#) as well as a [health risk](#).

The Legislature should correct this error by removing Prerolls from the allowed product list for patients and reserve this product for an adult use program that is administered by a different department. The use of a dry herb vaporizer is the preferred inhalation method for the medical use of cannabis and is much easier to hold than a joint.

To address these deficiencies, please make the following amendments to this bill:

SECTION 2. Section [329D-6](#), Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (r) to read as follows:

"(r) A dispensary may purchase cannabis and manufactured cannabis products from another dispensary. The department [~~may~~] [~~shall~~] may authorize a dispensary to purchase cannabis and manufactured cannabis products from another dispensary in a manner prescribed by the department by rules adopted pursuant to section [329D-27](#); provided that:

~~[(1) The purchasing dispensary establishes to the department's satisfaction that:~~

~~(A) The purchase is necessary to ensure that qualifying patients have continuous access to cannabis for medical use; or~~

~~(B) The cannabis and manufactured cannabis products are for medical, scientific, or other legitimate purposes approved by the State;~~

~~-(2)]~~ (1) The selling dispensary may transport no more than eight hundred ounces, or other amounts with prior approval by the department, of cannabis or manufactured cannabis products to the purchasing dispensary within a thirty-day period;

~~[-(3)]~~ (2) The cannabis and manufactured cannabis products are transported between the dispensaries for

medical~~[r]~~ sales, scientific~~[r]~~ use, or other legitimate purposes approved by the State; and

~~[(4)]~~ (3) Nothing in this subsection shall relieve any dispensary of its responsibilities and obligations under this chapter and chapter 329 with the understanding that state law and its protections do not apply outside of the jurisdictional limits of the State."

SECTION 3. Section 329D-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

"(a) The types of medical cannabis products that a dispensary may ~~[be manufactured and distributed]~~ manufacture and distribute pursuant to this chapter shall be limited to:

- (1) Capsules;
- (2) Lozenges;
- (3) Pills;
- (4) Oils and oil extracts;
- (5) Tinctures;
- (6) Ointments and skin lotions;
- (7) Transdermal patches;
- (8) Pre-filled and sealed containers used to aerosolize

and deliver cannabis orally or by inhalation, such as an inhaler, nebulizer, or device that provides safe pulmonary administration; provided that:

- (A) Containers need not be manufactured by the licensed dispensary but shall be filled with cannabis, cannabis oils, or cannabis extracts manufactured by the licensed dispensary or purchased from another dispensary pursuant to section 329D-6(r); but shall not contain nicotine, tobacco-related products, or any other non-cannabis derived products; and
- (B) For devices that provide safe pulmonary administration:
 - (i) The heating element of the device, if any, shall be made of inert materials such as glass, ceramic, or stainless steel, and not of plastic or rubber;
 - (ii) The device shall be distributed solely for use with single-use, pre-filled, tamper-resistant, sealed containers that do not contain nicotine or other tobacco products;
 - (iii) There shall be a temperature control on the device that is regulated to prevent the combustion of cannabis oil; and
 - (iv) The device need not be manufactured by the licensed dispensary;

~~[(9) Pre-rolled cannabis flower products, as specified by the department];~~

(10) (9) Edible cannabis products, as specified by the department; and

~~(11)~~ (10) Other products as specified by the department."

2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

"(d) Any medical cannabis product manufactured and distributed pursuant to this chapter shall be regulated and approved by the department and meet all requirements of rules adopted pursuant to this chapter; provided that the department shall establish requirements for child-resistant packaging and accurate and proper labeling. ~~[All rules adopted pursuant to this section shall be adopted no later than nine months after a product is permitted to be manufactured and distributed pursuant to subsection (a)]."~~

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: January 30, 2024

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti
Chair, Committee on Health and Homelessness

Representative Jenna Takenouchi
Vice Chair, Committee on Health and Homelessness

Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Jena Matila

RE: **H.B. 1952, H.D. 1 – Relating to Medical Cannabis**
Hearing Date: Friday, February 09, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room: 329

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Cure Oahu in **support** of H.B. 1952, H.D. 1. Cure Oahu is a vertically integrated licensed dispensary that has been operating in the State of Hawaii since 2018, with two retail locations in the Kapahulu and Kapolei areas.

H.B. 1952, H.D. 1, amends the dispensary program law to resolve matters that have arisen since the passage of Act 309 (SLH 2022) and Act 108 (SLH 2023). Specifically, the bill seeks to allow dispensary to dispensary sales to move forward and allow for the sale of cannabis products approved by the Legislature by putting a timeline on rulemaking.

Despite the legislative intent of Acts 309 and 108 to allow wholesale between dispensaries more freely, wholesale currently occurs on an emergency basis with an under 30 days request and approval process, or on a prove of need basis requiring over 30 days request and approval process. Current rules also give the Department of Health full discretion to reject requests with no specific timeline to respond. This limited wholesale approach impairs dispensaries' ability to do future planning, share manufacturing capabilities or specialize in equipment or products without facing significant risk of potential wholesale request rejections. Wholesale expands patient access to a variety of formulations, products and strains without sacrificing safety and consistency, and should be more widely supported. On a related matter, the sale of pre-rolled cannabis flower products was authorized under Act 108, but the Department has not engaged in rulemaking for the product since the law's passage. As a result, patients do not have access to this option. H.B. 1952, H.D. 1 would address these issues by explicitly stating a dispensary may purchase

cannabis and manufactured cannabis products from another dispensary, and placing a time limit on rulemaking to allow distribution of products in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

RE: HB1952 HD1; Hearing Friday February 9, 2024

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to testify for HB1952 HD1.

The Cannabis Society of Hawai'i is in support of this bill.

We greatly appreciate your time and consideration of patient rights.

Access to medicine should be a natural right for patients. The current vertical system without the opportunity to share resources and knowledge in the form of product offering hinders the patient experience and creates roadblocks to wellness.

While the intent of OMCCR is to provide safety (which is done through lab testing), the program fails in providing a path to state-of-the-art technologies and advancements in product offerings and categories that are widely available in medical cannabis programs elsewhere.

Prerolled cannabis is a perfect example of how the OMCCR has failed to meet patient needs. Understandably, the Department of Health is against smoking. However, smoking tobacco and smoking cannabis does not compare. Cannabis works with the endocannabinoid system and helps to regulate the body, mind, and create homeostasis. Although the body, mind can react to Tobacco, there is not a similar system to the ECS (endocannabinoid system).

Please refer to US Patent 6,630,507 B1 titled "Cannabinoids as Antioxidants and Neuroprotectants" by The Department of Health and Human Services. c 2003

We understand it can be hard for the Department of Health to promote cannabis smoking, however with a survey done in conjunction with the current Dispensaries we should expect to see that more than 90% of flower purchases are used to "smoke".

Vaping cannabis flower and vaping cannabis extracts are not the same and very different from vaping nicotine products.

Having OMCCR police the products made creates extra work, time, and money because there are already testing requirements in place for products to meet current safety guidelines to be produced and distributed.

Our team of professionals would love to work with OMCCR to help the program forward.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to go over our testimony in detail.

Thank you,

Cannabis Society of Hawai'i // cannabissocietyofhawaii@gmail.com

HB-1952-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 3:01:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/9/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn M Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha House Chair and Committee Members,

Rainbow Family 808 is a non-profit organization that supports the Civil Rights, Human Rights and as such, we stand up for our family members in pain.

HB1952 HD1 gives our families a measure of pain relief.

HB1952 is a compassionate measure to help family relationships when pain is not a destructive element inside family health.

I suffer from Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, and diabetes. Cannabis is used when the other pain measures fail me.

Thank you for hearing HB1952.

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch

Founder/President Rainbow Family 808

HB-1952-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 7:26:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/9/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
adam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With lab testing available , locals are missing out on the opportunity to also be able to sell to dispensaries if licensed .