

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

850

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2023

RE: S.B. No. 673
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 673, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize health care facilities to allow terminally ill patients to use medical cannabis under certain conditions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i and six individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Public Safety, Palolo Chinese Home, and Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that medical cannabis is most commonly used for pain relief, improvement of appetite, reduction of nausea, and as a substitute for heavy pain relievers such as fentanyl and morphine. Certain terminally ill patients may use cannabis for treatment or pain relief and wish to continue that use while at the hospital or other health care facility. While medical cannabis is legal in the State, cannabis remains classified as a Schedule I drug at the federal level. As health care facilities that are Medicare or Medicaid providers receive accreditation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, these facilities are required to comply with county, state, and



federal laws to receive reimbursements. Additionally, health care facilities may have adopted policies prohibiting cannabis on the premises out of perceived risk of losing federal funding. In order to balance the needs of terminally ill patients who use medical cannabis with the various regulations on health care facilities, this measure provides the option for health care facilities in the State, other than chemical dependency recovery hospitals, the State Hospital, and the Department of Public Safety-operated health care programs, to authorize terminally ill patients, subject to certain requirements, to use non-smoked medical cannabis.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 673, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

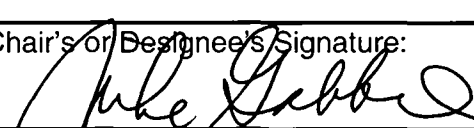
Karl Rhoads

KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 673 6D1	Committee Referral: HAS, JDC	Date: 2/24/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes