



Akamai Cannabis Consulting

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 150

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO OBTAIN A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
EXEMPTION FROM THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR
REGISTERED MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENTS AND REGISTRATION WAIVERS
FOR STATE-LICENSED DISPENSARIES

Clifton Otto, MD

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Monday, March 30, 2026, 1:07 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

STRONG SUPPORT

This is an important measure for medical cannabis patients and dispensaries, who must still violate federal law to participate in Hawaii's Medical Cannabis Program and suffer the consequences.

It is also a way for the Legislature to renew its commitment to protecting the State's constitutional authority over the intrastate medical use of cannabis.

And while this resolution is not binding upon the Governor, it does allow the Legislature to voice its intent that the federal situation with cannabis in Hawaii be addressed by the one person who ultimately can and should be pursuing solutions for this issue.

At the very least, there needs to be good faith public discussion about ending the discrimination that our medical cannabis patients and dispensaries face every day and protecting the intrastate medical use of cannabis, especially with federal rescheduling on the horizon.

Aloha.

SR-141

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 7:03:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Kacir	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

I SUPPORT SCR 150.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Courtney Kacir, RN BSN

SR-141

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 1:34:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manolo Morales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution because something needs to be done about the federal situation with cannabis in Hawaii.

SR-141

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 11:05:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

From Wendy Gibson-Viviani BSN/RN, Cannabis Nurse Educator.

To: Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: SCR150 and SR141 Medical Cannabis; Exemption; Federal Controlled Substances Act

Dear Chair, San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee,

Please support SCR150 and SR141 which request that Governor Green obtain an exemption from the DEA’s Controlled Substances Act for Hawaii’s medical cannabis patients and licensed dispensaries.

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani, an RN who has been a medical cannabis patient advocate in Hawaii for nearly 20 years. When I worked for the Drug Policy Forum & Medical Cannabis Coalition of Hawaii, I had to explain to medical cannabis patients why we could not help those who were in danger of being fired from their jobs because they tested positive for THC metabolites.

This is **one of many potential consequences** this patient population faces on a daily basis. It is the direct result of the State and Federal conflicts created in 2000 with Act 228. While the State recognizes the accepted medical use of cannabis, the Federal Govt still does not. The founders of Act 228 envisioned that cannabis would be treated the same as other medications and that Hawaii would be the epicenter of cannabis education and research.

While the State has created some protections for patients (and caregivers) such as providing a legal medical defense (on a State level), having an exemption from the CSA could expand patient protections.

This situation needs to be addressed and seeking an exemption may be the **most effective solution**. An exemption could improve the medical cannabis program and protect the intrastate medical use, while we wait for the DEA to decide if/when to rescheduled it from Schedule I to Schedule III (placing it alongside the prescription-- 100% THC).

An exemption may allow for better **continuity of care** for patients who need to bring their medicines with them when they travel (interisland) or are admitted to a healthcare facility.

Healthcare facility administration may be less resistant to the idea of allowing patients access, if they see a DEA approved exemption. Healthcare professionals may be allowed to touch and perhaps administer the medications.

An exemption may help open up education and research as the founders envisioned. And, if the Dispensaries benefit from an exemption, that is a direct benefit to patients.

Please support these resolutions (SCR150 and SR141) and encourage Governor Green to seek this exemption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani BSN/RN, Cannabis Nurse Educator.

Kailua, HI