

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai'i**

April 2, 2026

REGARDING SCR 64/SR 58 — RELATING TO REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REMOVE CANNABIS FROM THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STATES THAT ARE CLEARING DEFENDANTS' RECORDS OF CANNABIS OFFENSES, AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF BANKING SERVICES FOR CANNABIS-RELATED BUSINESSES.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in opposition of SCR 64/SR 58.

My name is Steve Alm and I am the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. My number one job is to protect the people of our county. These resolutions request that Congress remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act, support the clearing of cannabis-related criminal records, and expand banking access for cannabis-related businesses. These resolutions raise significant public safety, legal, and practical concerns.

The resolutions’ support for widespread clearing of criminal records fails to distinguish between low-level possession offenses and more serious conduct often associated with cannabis activity, including distribution, impaired driving, and offenses involving minors. A blanket approach to expungement risks erasing important criminal history information that prosecutors, courts, and law enforcement rely upon to assess risk, make charging decisions, and protect the community.

Additionally, these measures emphasize economic benefits and banking access for cannabis-related businesses, but do not address the well-documented public safety impacts associated with expanded cannabis availability. Increased access has been linked in other jurisdictions to impaired driving, diversion to minors, and the growth of illicit markets operating alongside legalized systems. These are not theoretical concerns—they directly impact community safety and enforcement resources.

Although the resolutions compare cannabis to alcohol and tobacco, this comparison oversimplifies the issue. Unlike alcohol, cannabis remains a psychoactive substance with evolving scientific understanding regarding its potency, mental health impacts, and long-term effects—particularly on youth. The Department remains concerned about normalizing a substance without sufficient regulatory safeguards and enforcement tools in place.

Finally, these resolutions urge federal action without addressing the operational realities faced by local prosecutors and law enforcement. Changes at the federal level will have downstream effects on charging practices, evidentiary standards, impaired driving enforcement, and coordination with federal partners. Those impacts should be carefully studied before endorsing such a sweeping policy shift.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully opposes these measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SCR-64

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 11:29:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Pikachu Billionaire	Testifying for Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

****Aloha kakahiaka nui, Honorable Members of the Hawaii Senate.**

**** My name is **Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM**, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman, Ohana Unity Party**

I submit this testimony with a heart full of the Aloha Spirit, in full accordance with ****HRS 5-7.5 Aloha Spirit Law****:

“Aloha is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good thoughts and good feelings to others.” I offer my ****strong, enthusiastic, and unwavering support**** for ****Senate Resolution SR58****

— ***REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REMOVE CANNABIS FROM THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STATES THAT ARE CLEARING DEFENDANTS' RECORDS OF CANNABIS OFFENSES, AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF BANKING SERVICES FOR CANNABIS-RELATED BUSINESSES.***

This resolution is long overdue and deeply pono. It asks the federal government to finally catch up with what the people of Hawai‘i and 38 other states have already decided: cannabis should no longer be treated like heroin or LSD.

Why SR58 Is Urgently Needed - **Hawai‘i has already moved forward with aloha**: We legalized medical cannabis in 2000, created dispensaries in 2015, and decriminalized small amounts in 2019. Yet federal law still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug — the same category as substances with “no currently accepted medical use.

” This creates constant conflict and fear for patients, businesses, and families.

- ****Real human cost****: Between 2011–2019, over ****10,666 people**** (adults and juveniles) were arrested in Hawai‘i for cannabis possession. Even after decriminalization, hundreds more were arrested in 2020. These records block housing, jobs, education, and opportunities — especially hurting Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and low-income ‘ohana who are disproportionately impacted.

- **Economic justice**: A recent Department of Health study projects that a regulated adult-use cannabis industry could generate **over \$1 billion** in gross sales by year five. That means jobs, tax revenue, and healing for our people — while alcohol and tobacco (which kill far more) remain fully legal and heavily regulated at the federal level.

- **Banking access is critical**: Honest cannabis businesses in Hawai‘i cannot get normal bank accounts, loans, or credit card services because of federal prohibition. This forces them to operate in cash — creating safety risks and making it harder to run legitimate operations. **He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka** — The land is the chief, the people are the servants. SR58 serves our ‘āina and our lāhui by asking Congress to stop punishing states and citizens for choosing a more compassionate, evidence-based path. It supports record expungement so people can rebuild their lives, opens safe banking so businesses can thrive legally, and removes cannabis from the outdated Controlled Substances Act so science and aloha — not fear — can guide policy.

This is not about encouraging reckless use. It is about treating adults like adults, protecting patients who rely on medical cannabis, creating economic opportunity, and ending the hypocrisy that treats alcohol and tobacco far more leniently than a plant our kūpuna have known for generations. I strongly urge the Senate to adopt **SR58** and send a clear message to our congressional delegation: Hawai‘i stands ready for full federal reform. Let us lead with lokahi, justice, and the Aloha Spirit. **E ho‘omaika‘i kākou**

— Let us give thanks together and move forward in unity for a wiser, fairer Hawai‘i. Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana and for considering this important resolution.

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.
Chairman,

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
RE: TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 64 / SR58
From: Robert Lawrence Bence
Date:3/31/2026

Aloha Senators,

I am in strong support of SCR 64 / SR 58

Cannabis has saved my life and helped me to recover from brain surgery for a random birth defect according to several doctors. I have dedicated over three decades of my life to this plant and want to see the benefits of ECS research federally legalized and Hawai'i to be a leader once again. Deschedule by removing from CSA is the best option for everyone.

This bill if enacted federally would be groundbreaking please ensure the patients and farmers who built it for over two decades can benefit from federal legalized growth and distribution not just 8 for profit dispensaries granted a state oligarchy in 2017; without patient centered support this program would lack the empathy aspect of aloha that could make it the best in the world. I strongly support this bill and hope Hawai'i can treat it like it is in the meantime.

Mahalo

Rob



Hawai'i Alliance for Cannabis Reform In Support of SCR 64

LATE

April 1, 2026

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Hawai'i Alliance for Cannabis Reform (HACR) works to end cannabis prohibition for adults 21 and older, and to regulate and tax the sale of cannabis in Hawai'i with a focus on reparative justice and inclusion for communities and individuals most impacted by criminalization. HACR also supports medical cannabis protections.

We strongly support SCR 64, which would call on Congress to:

- Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act;
- Provide support to states that are in the process of clearing defendants' records of cannabis offenses; and
- Facilitate access to the full spectrum of banking services for cannabis-related businesses.

Twenty-four states, which are home to 54% of the U.S. population, have legalized cannabis for adults' use¹ and 40 states — including Hawai'i — allow medical cannabis.² Yet, every cannabis consumer, patient, and worker remains a criminal under federal law. While those federal criminal laws are not currently enforced, that could change. And the spectre of criminality has real-world consequences, including for those who are not U.S. citizens.³

It is past time for federal law to change and stop criminalizing state-legal conduct related to cannabis. Like alcohol prohibition a century ago, cannabis prohibition has failed. It wastes taxpayer dollars, perpetuates racial disparities, puts consumers at risk, and locks people up for minor offenses in overcrowded jails and prisons. Legalizing and responsibly regulating cannabis grows the economy, increases freedom, and promotes health and safety.

Federal support for expungement or record clearance is also important. Since 1990, there have been more than 21 million arrests for cannabis in the United States,⁴ with enforcement marred by staggering racial disparities.⁵

¹ Athena Chapekis and Sono Shah, "Most Americans now live in a legal marijuana state – and most have at least one dispensary in their county," Pew Research Center, Feb. 29, 2024.

² "State Medical Cannabis Laws" NCSL, June 27, 2025.

³ See: "What Every Noncitizen Must Know About Cannabis and Immigration," ILRC, Dec. 2, 2024.

⁴ See: "FBI: Marijuana Possession Arrests Comprised Over 20% of All Drug-Related Arrests in 2024," NORML, Oct. 15, 2025.

⁵ See: See: "A Tale of Two Countries: Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform," ACLU, 2020; see also data from the FBI's Crime Explorer.

Criminal records trigger thousands of collateral consequences that make it difficult to get housing, employment, loans, and professional or occupational licensing.⁶ One survey found 92% percent of employers report using criminal records checks on some or all applicants.⁷ Fifty-five percent of people with records report difficulties obtaining a job, maintaining employment, or making a living.⁸ A lifetime of stigma and collateral consequences is unduly harsh and inappropriate for cannabis.

Hawai'i has a pilot program to clear cannabis records, along with a task force exploring broader Clean Slate legislation. Many other states are moving forward to expunge cannabis convictions,⁹ recognizing that lives should not be derailed for using a plant that is safer than alcohol — and that is legal in much of the country. Clearing these records to stop derailing lives is an important feature of equitable legalization.

Access to full-spectrum banking is also important. One of the biggest hurdles for social equity applicants is access to capital. Many applicants are not able to finance cannabis businesses, or they end up with predatory loans. Access to banking is vital both to access loans and to avoid a cash-only or cash-mostly business that puts all involved in jeopardy.

Please support SCR 64 to call on Congress to stop criminalizing cannabis patients, workers, and consumers under federal law, to facilitate record clearance, and to allow for banking services.

Mahalo for your time and public service,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Cannabis Reform
info@legalizehawaii.org
LegalizeHawaii.org

Member Organizations:

ACLU of Hawai'i ♦ Cannabis Society of Hawai'i ♦ Hawaiian Council
Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i ♦ Last Prisoner Project ♦ Marijuana Policy Project

⁶ See: Jamiles Lartey, "How Criminal Records Hold Back Millions of People," *The Marshall Project*, April 1, 2023.

⁷ Society for Human Resources Management Background Checking: Conducting Criminal Background Checks, slide 3 (Jan. 22, 2010) https://www.slideshare.net/shrm/background-check-criminal?from=share_email

⁸ Alliance for Justice national survey of people with records:

<https://asj.allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-05-15-2023-TimeDoneSurvey-Full.pdf>

⁹ See: "Legalization States' Approaches to Expungement and Release," Marijuana Policy Project.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.C.R. NO. 64 / S.R. NO. 58

Requesting the United States Congress to Remove Cannabis from the Federal Controlled Substances Act, Provide Support to States Clearing Cannabis Offense Records, and Facilitate Access to Full Banking Services for Cannabis-Related Businesses

Submitted to the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session 2026

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 64 and its corresponding S.R. 58. This resolution calls on the United States Congress to take three overdue and interconnected actions: 1) remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act, 2) support states in clearing cannabis-related criminal records, and 3) open full banking services to cannabis businesses. Each of these requests reflects sound policy, the will of the American people, and the lived reality of our communities here in Hawaii.

I. THE FEDERAL SCHEDULING OF CANNABIS IS SCIENTIFICALLY INDEFENSIBLE AND INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE

For more than fifty years, cannabis has been classified as a Schedule I controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act, placing it in the same category as heroin and categorizing it as having no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. This classification has never reflected scientific consensus, and the federal government's own agencies now agree.

In 2023, the Food and Drug Administration completed a review finding credible scientific support for the use of cannabis to treat pain, anorexia related to certain medical conditions, and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. The National Institute on Drug Abuse concurred with a recommendation to reschedule cannabis. More than 30,000 licensed healthcare practitioners across 43 U.S. jurisdictions are authorized to recommend the medical use of cannabis for over 6 million registered patients treating at least 15 medical conditions. These are not fringe numbers, they represent a mature, state-sanctioned medical system operating under the constant threat of federal contradiction.

About 90% of Americans believe medical cannabis should be legal, the same proportion who recognize that the earth is round. Thirty-eight states, four territories, and the District of Columbia have authorized medical cannabis use. Twenty-four states have gone further and legalized adult use. Hawaii has been part of this movement since 2000, when the Legislature first authorized medical cannabis, and again in 2015 and 2019 with dispensary regulation and decriminalization.

The current federal framework forces a stark choice on states: serve your residents with evidence-based cannabis policy, or comply with a federal law that is decades out of step with science, public health research, and democratic will. That is not a tenable position.



Notably, even the current federal administration has acknowledged the problem. On December 18, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order directing the Attorney General to take all necessary steps to expeditiously move marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act. This is an important signal—but it is not enough. Moving marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III, without other legal changes, would not bring the state-legal medical or recreational marijuana industry into compliance with federal controlled substances law. Only Congress has the authority to fully remove cannabis from the CSA and that is precisely what this resolution asks. Rescheduling to Schedule III is an incremental improvement; complete descheduling is the appropriate and necessary endpoint.

This resolution correctly draws the comparison to alcohol and tobacco, both of which fall outside the Controlled Substances Act despite causing enormous public health harm. As the resolution notes, excessive alcohol use in Hawaii accounts for approximately 600 deaths and \$937 million in costs annually, while tobacco-related illness costs our medical system roughly \$611 million per year. The inconsistency in how federal law treats these substances versus cannabis is not grounded in pharmacology or public health evidence. It is a legacy of prohibition-era politics that Hawaii’s Legislature is right to challenge.

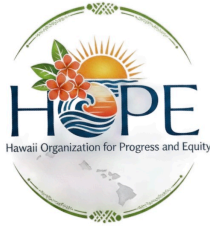
II. THE HUMAN COST OF CANNABIS CRIMINALIZATION DEMANDS REDRESS

The resolution documents a troubling record: 6,934 adults and 3,732 juveniles arrested in Hawaii for cannabis possession between 2011 and 2019. Even after Act 273 decriminalized small amounts of cannabis in 2019, 523 adults and 85 juveniles were still arrested for cannabis possession in 2020 alone. These are not abstract numbers; they are Hawaii residents whose records, housing access, employment prospects, and family stability were affected by enforcement of a law that this Legislature has since recognized as disproportionate.

Cannabis arrest and conviction records create cascading consequences that far outlast the criminal proceeding itself. Background check systems flag these records for landlords, employers, and professional licensing boards, often without context or the ability to account for subsequent changes in law. The resolution is correct that other states have already begun addressing this. More than 2,500,000 cannabis records have been expunged or sealed since 2018. Federal support for this effort is both just and practical: it helps states move efficiently through record-clearing processes, reduces administrative burdens on courts, and allows individuals to fully participate in the economy.

The economic argument for cannabis legalization, which this resolution also raises, noting that an adult-use sector in Hawaii could exceed \$1 billion in gross sales by its fifth year, is strengthened, not weakened, when paired with equity. A legal cannabis industry built on the foundation of racially and economically disproportionate enforcement of prohibition is incomplete. Congressional support for record clearing is not merely symbolic; it is a prerequisite for a fair and functional legal market.

III. BANKING EXCLUSION UNDERMINES SAFETY, TAX COMPLIANCE, AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS



Perhaps no aspect of federal cannabis policy creates more immediate, practical harm than the exclusion of cannabis businesses from standard banking services. Because cannabis remains federally illegal, most financial institutions decline to serve cannabis-related businesses due to potential liability under federal money laundering statutes and bank regulations. The result is a largely cash-based industry operating in states where cannabis is entirely legal.

Cannabis businesses are unable to accept credit cards, leaving them reliant on cash transactions. For some multi-state operators, Friday is by far the biggest sales day every week because it is a cash business. This creates serious public safety risks, invites theft, and makes accurate tax reporting more difficult. It also puts cannabis businesses at a structural disadvantage compared to every other legal industry in America.

The tax burden compounds the problem. Because cannabis remains a Schedule I substance, the IRS applies Internal Revenue Code Section 280E, which blocks cannabis businesses from claiming standard business expense deductions, exposing them to a far higher effective tax rate than comparable businesses. This is a punitive and economically irrational outcome for businesses operating in full compliance with state law.

The resolution acknowledges that members of Congress have already introduced legislation to address banking access, including deposit insurance for cannabis businesses. This Legislature's voice in support of that effort matters. Hawaii's cannabis dispensaries and related businesses cannot wait indefinitely for federal law to catch up to state law on a question as fundamental as whether they can open a bank account.

IV. CONCLUSION

S.C.R. 64 asks the United States Congress to do three things that are grounded in science, justice, and economic common sense: remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act, support states in clearing cannabis conviction records, and provide cannabis businesses access to the banking system. These are not radical requests, they reflect the direction that bipartisan majorities of Americans, and an increasing number of federal policymakers, already support.

Hawaii has led thoughtfully on this issue for more than two decades. This resolution continues that tradition by pressing Congress to align federal law with the realities that states, patients, businesses, and communities are already living. I respectfully urge the Committee's support for S.C.R. 64.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Submitted Online: April 1, 2026

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Opposition to SCR 64 and SR 58 Controlled Substance Act Removal Resolution

Hawai‘i Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. We respectfully oppose SR 58 and SCR 64. These resolutions request that Congress remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act, support the clearing of cannabis-related criminal records, and expand access to banking services for cannabis-related businesses.

While we understand that there are ongoing discussions about aligning federal and state cannabis laws, we are concerned that these resolutions move Hawai‘i further toward normalizing and expanding cannabis use without fully considering the impact on our communities—especially our keiki and families.

Increased availability and acceptance of cannabis can lead to greater use, particularly among young people. Many in our community are already concerned about the pressures facing youth today, including mental health challenges and substance use. Policies that further normalize drug use may unintentionally contribute to these concerns.

The resolution also points to economic opportunities and comparisons to substances like alcohol and tobacco. However, the harms associated with those substances are well known in Hawai‘i. Rather than using them as a model, they should serve as a reminder of the long-term social and health costs that can come with increased access to harmful substances.

In addition, expanding banking access and federal protections would strengthen and grow the cannabis industry. This raises important questions about whether our policies are prioritizing commercial growth over the well-being of individuals and families.

Hawai‘i is unique in its strong sense of ‘ohana and community. Decisions that affect public health and safety should be approached with care, ensuring that we do not unintentionally create new challenges for families already navigating complex issues.

For these reasons, Hawai‘i Family Forum respectfully urges the Committee to defer SR 58 and SCR 64. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Committee: Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 9:45am
Place: Conference Room 016 & Via Videoconference
Re: *Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SCR64 / HR58*

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SCR64 and SR58** requesting the United States Congress to Remove Cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act, provide support to states that are clearing defendants' records of cannabis offenses, and facilitate access to the full spectrum of banking services for cannabis-related businesses.

Twenty-four states have legalized cannabis for adults' use¹ and 40 states — including Hawai'i — allow medical cannabis². At the same time, every cannabis consumer, patient, and worker remains a criminal under federal law. While those federal criminal laws are not currently enforced, that could change. And the specter of criminality has real-world consequences, including for those who are not U.S. citizens.³

The time for federal law to change has long passed. Congress needs to take steps to ensure federal law enforcement can no longer criminalize state-legalized conduct related to cannabis. Data shows us that cannabis prohibition has failed. Just as alcohol prohibition failed in the early 20th century. Current prohibition wastes taxpayer dollars, perpetuates racial disparities, puts consumers at risk, and locks-up people in overcrowded jails and prisons for minor offenses.

¹ Athena Chapekis and Sono Shah, "Most Americans now live in a legal marijuana state – and most have at least one dispensary in their county," Pew Research Center, Feb. 29, 2024.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/02/29/most-americans-now-live-in-a-legal-marijuana-state-and-most-have-at-least-one-dispensary-in-their-county/>

² "State Medical Cannabis Laws" NCSL, June 27, 2025. <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-medical-cannabis-laws>

³ "What Every Noncitizen Must Know About Cannabis and Immigration," ILRC, Dec. 2, 2024.

<https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources/what-every-noncitizen-must-know-about-cannabis-and-immigration>

Legalizing and responsibly regulating cannabis grows the economy, increases freedom, and promotes health and safety.

Federal support for expungement or record clearance is also important. Since 1990, there have been more than 21 million arrests for cannabis in the United States, with enforcement marred by staggering racial disparities.⁴

Criminal records result in thousands of collateral consequences. Lack of access to housing, employment, loans, and professional or occupational licensing.⁵ One survey found 92% percent of employers report using criminal records checks on some or all applicants.⁶ 55% of people with records report difficulties obtaining a job, maintaining employment, or making a living.⁷ A lifetime of stigma and collateral consequences is unduly harsh and inappropriate for cannabis.

Hawai'i has a pilot program to clear cannabis records, along with a task force exploring broader Clean Slate legislation. The ACLU of Hawai'i supports both these efforts. And many other states are moving forward to expunge cannabis convictions. Lives should not be derailed for using cannabis, which is proven less harmful than alcohol, and which is legal in much of the country. Clearing these records is an important feature of equitable legalization.

Access to full-spectrum banking is also important. One of the biggest hurdles for social equity applicants is access to capital. Many applicants are not able to finance cannabis businesses, or they end up with predatory loans. Access to banking is vital both to access loans, and to avoid a cash-only or cash-mostly business that puts all involved in jeopardy.

For all these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai'i supports SCR64 and SR58 and we encourage the committee to advance the measure.

⁴ "A Tale of Two Countries: Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform," ACLU, 2020; see also data from the FBI's Crime Explorer.

https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/publications/marijuanareport_03232021.pdf

⁵ Jamiles Lartey, "How Criminal Records Hold Back Millions of People," *The Marshall Project*, April 1, 2023. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/04/01/criminal-record-job-housing-barriers-discrimination>

⁶ Society for Human Resources Management Background Checking: Conducting Criminal Background Checks, slide 3 (Jan. 22, 2010) https://www.slideshare.net/shrm/background-check-criminal?from=share_email

⁷ Alliance for Justice national survey of people with records:

<https://asj.allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-05-15-2023-TimeDoneSurvey-Full.pdf>

Sincerely,

Josh Frost

Josh Frost

Policy Advocate

ACLU of Hawai'i

jfrost@acluhawaii.org

With more than 4,000 Hawai'i-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving our communities in Hawai'i for over 60 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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LATE

SCR-64

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:23:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Testifying for Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee:

On behalf of Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, I am writing in strong support of HCR 64. At a time when a majority of U.S. residents are living in a jurisdiction where adult-use cannabis is available, the continued inclusion of cannabis in the federal Controlled Substances Act is untenable. Its continued presence on in the CSA runs afoul of the criteria proffered by the act itself, including lack of accepted medical use and high potential for abuse.

It is also imperative for federal and state governments to ameliorate the lasting harms of criminalization, which is the most severe and lasting stigma perpetuated by structures of power against persons that impact their ability to obtain employment and housing, among other impacts.

Finally, allowing cannabis-related business to access financial services will spur investment and jobs in a sector that is already generates tens of billions of dollars annually. The sector also enhances public coffees. Even a smaller state like New Mexico saw over \$70 million in tax revenue in its first full year of adult-use legalization.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SCR-64

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:30:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSED to SCR64 & SR58

Cannabis should remain a Controlled Substance because it contains the psych- active substance THC. THC can cause severe psychological harm and many adverse effects on mental health.

Expunging cannabis-related crimes from a person's records will Not necessarily expunge criminal behavior from the person!!

Any "potential" for revenue should Not be sought at the expense of Increased Risks to public safety & health.

Please serve the best interests of All Hawaii residents, Not just cater to profit- seeking cannabis industry!

Please don't let Hawaii go to "pot"!!!

Vote NO on SCR64 & SR58

Mahalo

SCR-64

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 6:52:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I SUPPORT SCR 64.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Courtney Kacir, RN BSN

SCR-64

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 8:36:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR64.

SCR-64

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 8:17:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Oppose

58 SR REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REMOVE CANNABIS FROM THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STATES THAT ARE CLEARING DEFENDANTS' RECORDS OF CANNABIS OFFENSES, AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF BANKING SERVICES FOR CANNABIS-RELATED BUSINESSES.

LATE

SCR-64

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:15:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

RE: **Support for SCR 64 / SR 58**

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 9:45 AM. Conference Room 016 and Videoconference.

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Please support SCR64 and SR58 which will:

- Call on Congress to Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act;
- Provide support to states that are in the process of clearing defendants' records of cannabis offenses; and
- Facilitate access to the full spectrum of banking services for cannabis-related businesses.

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani, an RN who has been a medical cannabis patient advocate in Hawaii for nearly 20 years.

I believe that the federal **descheduling** of cannabis is the only way to ensure that the State's regulated cultivation, distribution, sale and use of cannabis will no longer be criminalized. The FDA's proposal that the DEA reschedule to Schedule III (alongside the prescription 100% THC) does not go far enough towards this end.

Cannabis (Marijuana) should never have been placed in the Schedule I classification of the CSA, reserved for highly addictive substances with NO accepted medical use. It was placed there for political and not scientific reasons and was supposed to be a "temporary" placement.

Cannabis has a long history of accepted medical use in the USA:

- Between 1850 and 1940, it was included in the US Pharmacopoeia, (the pharmacist's guidebooks) and available in every pharmacy in hundreds of formulations.

- The first medical marijuana program in the USA was a Federal Program, the IND, which supplied cannisters of cannabis cigarettes to patients – between 1978 and 2014 (when cannabis was legalized for adult-use).

Please continue to support expungement efforts in Hawaii. Please help fix the banking services for cannabis-related businesses.

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

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

Kailua, HI