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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 3:19 AM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support of House Bill 2675 HD1 RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Testimony in strong support of House Bill 2675 HD1

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: February 29, 2008  
TIME: 2:15 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

**HB2675**

**RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

Increases the number of marijuana plants allowed for Medical use by a patient with written certification to 14 plants. Creates the medical marijuana task force to Discuss the value of constructing secure growing facilities for medical marijuana and study inter-island transport Issues related to medical marijuana. (HB2675 HD1)

HLT, PSM  
PENDING RE-REFERRAL

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Scott Orton, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate  
1130 Hassinger St. #3A  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
DaCoconutWireless: Community E-mail Communications for HIV Issues, Editor

*Aloha Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,*

My name is Scott Orton, and I am writing to testify in strong support of House Bill 2675 HD1 as amended. Tommy Waters, Chair, Judiciary has waved on this measure, and I encourage this committee to pass this measure on for further consideration.

The toxic medications for HIV are sometimes very difficult to take. And Marijuana use makes the difference between being able to take the necessary drugs to survive. Marijuana is hard to grow, and a seasonal plant. This bill will help in many ways, to modify existing law. A lot of very hard work by the Health Committee was put into this version of this House Bill 2675 HD1 as amended.

The issue is all about access to supply for those who are licensed for Medical Marijuana. This is very important to those that are sick need to grow and maintain a supply of Legal Medical Marijuana. We need to support in every way the LEGAL USE of MEDICAL MARIJUANA. Access to this important herb is imperative to many that are sick and can't take the medications needed to stay alive and the loss

2/29/2008

of appetite.

Please help those that are in need medically, with gaining access to this very important herb by supporting this measure. It makes good sense to update, discuss, and find solutions to this controversial measure that has yielded an appropriate and timely Bill, Bill HB 1890.

Love and Aloha,

***Scott Orton, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate***

1130 Hassinger St. #3A

Honolulu, HI 96822 Ph: 808-383-2016

Bcc: DaCoconutWireless Members and Others

Testimony in strong support of House Bill 2675 HD1



**CHARMAINE TAVARES**  
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE  
YOUR REFERENCE

# **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **COUNTY OF MAUI**

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
(808) 244-6400  
FAX (808) 244-6411



**THOMAS M. PHILLIPS**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

**GARY A. YABUTA**  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 28, 2008

The Honorable Cindy Evans  
And Members of the  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 2675, RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA;  
RECIPROCITY**

I am Thomas M. Phillips, Chief of Police of the Maui County Police Department. I am taking this opportunity to submit written testimony expressing my profound opposition to the passage of H.B. 2675, HD1, Medical Marijuana; Reciprocity. I believe that other law enforcement entities throughout the State of Hawaii will also oppose these bills along with the Law Enforcement Coalition (LEC).

The value of medicinal marijuana is suspect at best, and debatable in scientific circles. The United States Supreme Court doesn't recognize medical marijuana, and marijuana is still considered a controlled substance under Federal and Hawaii State law. Thus, it is still a federal crime to possess, and distribute marijuana, whether it is for medicinal, profit, or recreational purposes. If such a bill is passed, the State of Hawaii would be legally and civilly liable for breaking federal law.

Law enforcement would be caught in a quandary, due to the fact that there is no conceivable way to check on the authenticity of the out-of-state medical marijuana permit. Anyone could forge a medical marijuana permit, and there would be no way to validate it on a twenty-four hour/seven-days-a-week basis.

There is also no conceivable way to validate that the qualifying conditions needed to obtain a medical marijuana permit from out-of-state residents were met, and to assure that it complies with our state law. There are twelve other states in the nation that have some form of medical marijuana laws. They all have different qualifying parameters. Law enforcement cannot check on the validity of qualifying parameters on each permit holder.

The Honorable Cindy Evans And Members of the  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
February 28, 2008  
Page 2

If law enforcement were unable to verify the authenticity of the out-of-state medical marijuana permits, it would create a problem in differentiating between the dealer/drug trafficker and the permit holder, thus, possibly leading to the arrest of a permit holder.

The out-of-state permit holders wouldn't be able to transport the medical marijuana between states, due to the fact that it is a federal crime to transport a controlled substance between states. If they came to Hawaii and bought, traded, or bartered marijuana, they would be breaking state law as well as federal law.

Obtaining the marijuana illegally would enhance a recipe for disaster, as there is also the potential for more violence and property thefts that has recently occurred on the island of Maui involving growing and distributing marijuana. If this bill is passed, there is an immense potential for abuse of the illicit marijuana, by people trying to legalize it, and those trying to make a profit by selling and distributing it.

Marijuana has been determined to be the gateway drug. It is no wonder that we consistently rank in the top seven states in the nation in regards to marijuana plants eradicated, and consequently have one of the worst crystal methamphetamine problems in the nation. Maui County and the State of Hawaii doesn't need more marijuana related crimes, and more people addicted to marijuana.

Furthermore, we don't support an increase in the amount of marijuana plants and processed marijuana that a person may possess for medicinal reasons. Fourteen plants and fourteen ounces is a ridiculous amount for anyone to possess. One ounce of processed marijuana could produce anywhere from fourteen to thirty marijuana cigarettes. This would mean that a person could possess anywhere from 196 to 420 marijuana cigarettes at any given time. There is no profound reason why anyone would need such an exorbitant amount of marijuana. This amount would lead to sales and abuse of marijuana that was supposedly earmarked for suspect medicinal purposes.

Although we do not support medical marijuana, we firmly believe that the current law is adequate for the amount of marijuana that one can legally possess. We have already had several cases where people who had medical marijuana permits possessed more than the legal amount and were suspected of selling it for profit.


We also oppose the proposed medical marijuana task force that is being advocated, due to the fact that we do not support the goals of which they are trying to accomplish. As stated, we oppose any type of marijuana growing facility, and inter-island travel with medical marijuana due to the mere fact that this would be against federal law, and for reasons stated earlier.

The Honorable Cindy Evans And Members of the  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
February 28, 2008  
Page 3

I humbly ask for your favorable support of opposing House Bill 2675, HD 1. Passage of this bill will considerably enhance the potential for marijuana abuse, thefts relating to marijuana, and violence relating to marijuana. Hawaii does not need the negativity that is associated with a safe haven for medical marijuana users. Open marijuana use has always been a concern of our tourists and residents alike, and we need not project a drug haven atmosphere that could have a negative impact on tourism. We need to protect our communities from these harms and build a prosperous and safe community for our future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



THOMAS M. PHILLIPS  
Chief of Police

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**From:** Geoff Moore [geoffm@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 11:12 AM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs

Chair: Rep. Cindy Evans

Vice-Chair: Rep. Sharon E. Shar

2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309

Position: SUPPORT

Number of copies needed for committee: 14

Aloha Representative,

I am a medical marijuana patient registered with the State of Hawai'i department of Public Safety. I write to you today to urge your support for House Bill 2675, legislation that seeks to improve Hawaii's medicinal cannabis program. The original intent of this bill is to provide medical marijuana patients "safe access" to their medicine.

It is not in the interest of the public safety of Hawai'i's residents to continually force our most vulnerable patients, those who do not respond well to standard pharmaceuticals, to the black market for the medicine that their doctors recommend. There have been numerous recent cases of police harrasment towards medical marijuana patients, theft and violence. I no longer want to be treated like a criminal to acquire the medicine my doctor recommends.

Hawaii does not provide for a legal means of supplying marijuana. Discussing and acknowledging the right of patients to form secure collective and cooperative operations will allow for individual patients to have their needs met safely. This way, many patients can have an operation together, sharing knowledge and resources in one secure location that is easily transparent to local law enforcement.

The most critical issue facing Hawaii medical marijuana patients is the acquisition of our medicine. It is very difficult for individual patients to grow enough viable product to assure an "adequate supply," and/or find a responsible caregiver how will grow for them. Theft, bugs, disease, lacking knowledge of successful growing techniques and time-consuming trial and error, and dependence on an unethical, unregulated and illegal "black market" are issues patients face when growing medical marijuana. Allowing patients to grow more plants, particularly in secure growing facilities, and possess more "usable product" will only ensure patients' safe access to medicine during times when issues arise.

It is very telling that in testimony to the Health Committee, the only opposition to the bill came from law enforcement officers and state and county prosecutor's offices. Doctors, patients and the legislature have supported an initiative to further protect patients. Last week, the American College of Physicians, a 124,000-member group that is the nation's largest for doctors of internal medicine, called on the federal government to ease its strict ban on marijuana as medicine and hasten research into the drug's therapeutic use. Meanwhile, Maui Police Chief Thomas Phillips testified against HB2675 claiming: "Marijuana as medicine is questionable at best, and debatable in scientific circles." He continued on, "We at the Maui Police Department do not support medical marijuana in its entirety." Apparently, he seeks to continue to treat medical marijuana patients like criminals, enforcing his agenda while failing to perform his duties as guided by the state law.

In 2000, the legislature found that medical research had discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated with certain debilitating illnesses. However, the legislature also recognized the need to regulate such use, for the health and welfare of our citizens. As a result, regulation of the medical use of marijuana was enacted into law in 2000 in act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000 and codified in part IX, Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

In its mission statement, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared that its goal is to speed along innovations that make foods and medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable. However, the FDA does not seem to have offered much information on the use of medical marijuana to improve our health. As a result, states have taken the initiative to find evidence to support the proposition that certain diseases and conditions respond favorably to medically controlled use of marijuana.

Further research on the medical efficacy is in the best interests of the state and the state's medical marijuana patients. Marijuana is currently classified as a schedule I controlled substance pursuant to section 329-14, HRS, which is a category designated for substances that have no medical value. This neither reflects the results of scientific research, past legislative action, nor the medical laws in at least 14 states. For the public safety of the citizens of Hawai'i, it may be worth considering changing the classification to a schedule III controlled substance.

2/29/2008

In 2006, the California attorney general's office joined the American Civil Liberties Union, American for Safe Access, and the Drug Policy Alliance in arguing that state medical marijuana laws are not invalidated by conflicting federal statutes; an opinion previously voiced by Hawaii's attorney general. The groups argued that while the federal government is free to enforce its ban on medical marijuana, even in states such as California that permit its use, all states remain free to adopt and implement medical marijuana policies of their own design. An attorney for the Drug Policy Alliance stated that, "The ruling upholds the state of California's sovereign right to fashion common-sense, responsible and compassionate policies for its residents.

Mahalo for the Opportunity to testify.

Geoffrey T. Moore  
Huleo, Hawaii

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**From:** Gerald Taber [solidlava@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 11:28 AM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675 - Boax - Support

Aloha Representative,

I am a former medical marijuana Caregiver as of last year registered with the State of Hawaii's department of Public Safety H00464677. Due to overwhelming prices, and inadequate supply and inability to grow a supply of medical marijuana – a situation created by continued persistence of local law enforcement to shut down the distribution of legal Cannabis in all forms, whether it be medical or industrial. I am no longer able to provide the medical pain relief my wife needs to make her quality of life, tolerable and healthy and therefore safe. I write to you today to urge your support for House Bill 2675, legislation that seeks to improve Hawaii's medicinal cannabis program. The original intent of this bill is to provide medical marijuana patients "safe access" to their medicine. Which is I feel the first step this community can take to better themselves on a globally changing market and economically adjusting future. The medical benefits which are proven and well documented are invaluable medically, socially and economically to the state of Hawaii and all of its citizens. This is undeniable. Those economic benefits alone do not compare to the industrial value that will be able to effectively provide necessary long term economic support in an ever changing global marketplace to the state of Hawaii and Nation of America. It is up to the Committee for Public Safety and Military Affairs to help make the community a safe place to live, is it not?

**It is not in the interest of the public safety of Hawaii's residents to continually force our most vulnerable patients, those who do not respond well to standard pharmaceuticals, to the black market for the medicine that their doctors recommend.** There have been numerous recent cases of police harassment towards medical marijuana patients, theft and violence. I no longer want to be treated like a criminal to acquire the medicine my doctor recommends.

Hawaii does not provide for a legal means of supplying marijuana. Discussing and acknowledging the right of patients to form **secure** collective and cooperative operations will allow for individual patients to have their needs met safely. This way, many patients can have an operation together, sharing knowledge and resources in one secure location that is easily transparent to local law enforcement.

The most critical issue facing Hawaii medical marijuana patients is the acquisition of our medicine. It is very difficult for individual patients to grow enough viable product to assure an "adequate supply," and/or find a responsible caregiver how will grow for them. Theft, bugs, disease, lacking knowledge of successful growing techniques and time-consuming trial and error, and dependence on an unethical, unregulated and illegal "black market" are issues patients face when growing medical marijuana. Allowing patients to grow more plants, particularly in secure growing facilities, and possess more "usable product" will only ensure patients' safe access to medicine during times when issues arise.

It is very telling that in testimony to the Health Committee, the only opposition to the bill came from law enforcement officers and state and county prosecutor's offices. Doctors, patients and the legislature have supported an initiative to further protect patients. Last week, the American College of Physicians, a 124,000-member group that is the nation's largest for doctors of internal medicine, called on the federal government to ease its strict ban on marijuana as medicine and hasten research into the drug's

2/29/2008



therapeutic use. Meanwhile, Maui Police Chief Thomas Phillips testified against HB2675 claiming: "Marijuana as medicine is questionable at best, and debatable in scientific circles." He continued on, "We at the Maui Police Department do not support medical marijuana in its entirety." Apparently, he seeks to continue to treat medical marijuana patients like criminals, enforcing his agenda while failing to perform his duties as guided by the state law.

In 2000, the legislature found that medical research had discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated with certain debilitating illnesses. However, the legislature also recognized the need to regulate such use, for the health and welfare of our citizens. As a result, regulation of the medical use of marijuana was enacted into law in 2000 in act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000 and codified in part IX, Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

In its mission statement, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared that its goal is to speed along innovations that make foods and medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable. However, the FDA does not seem to have offered much information on the use of medical marijuana to improve our health. As a result, states have taken the initiative to find evidence to support the proposition that certain diseases and conditions respond favorably to medically controlled use of marijuana.

Further research on the medical efficacy is in the best interests of the state and the state's medical marijuana patients. Marijuana is currently classified as a schedule I controlled substance pursuant to section 329-14, HRS, which is a category designated for substances that have no medical value. This neither reflects the results of scientific research, past legislative action, nor the medical laws in at least 14 states. For the public safety of the citizens of Hawai'i, it may be worth considering changing the classification to a schedule III controlled substance.

In 2006, the California attorney general's office joined the American Civil Liberties Union, American for Safe Access, and the Drug Policy Alliance in arguing that state medical marijuana laws are not invalidated by conflicting federal statutes; an opinion previously voiced by Hawai'i's attorney general. The groups argued that while the federal government is free to enforce its ban on medical marijuana, even in states such as California that permit its use, all states remain free to adopt and implement medical marijuana policies of their own design. An attorney for the Drug Policy Alliance stated that, "The ruling upholds the state of California's sovereign right to fashion common-sense, responsible and compassionate policies for its residents." I see that it is the responsibility of the committee hereto to uphold the state of Hawaii's sovereign and any and all Royal Hawaiian Kingdom's Sovereign Right and ability as outlined by the Apology Resolution formally being designated as United States Public Law 103-150 to fashion it's own proven, and compassionate policies for all of its residents.

Mahalo for the Opportunity to testify,

Respectfully,

Name: Gerald L. Taber

[solidlava@hotmail.com](mailto:solidlava@hotmail.com)

former: Huntsman Petro-Chemical Corporation, employee

former: Feature Films for Families, employee

current: Citizen of the County of Maui



TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2675 HD1  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA  
Jody Shiroma Perreira  
Sassy/G Magazine

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Friday, February 29, 2008, 2:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309

Representative Evans and Members of the Committee:

I, Jody Shiroma Perreira, Co-Publisher and Editor of Sassy/G Magazine strongly opposes House Bill 2675 HD1, that attempts to amend the definition of “adequate supply” as listed in section 329-121 Hawaii Revised Statutes by increasing the number of marijuana plants to 14 plants that can jointly be possessed between the qualifying patient and the primary caregiver and up to 1 ounce of usable marijuana per plant (14 ounces).

As an individual who works diligently to educate our island youth about the dangers of drugs and the importance of leading a drug-free lifestyle, I believe a bill like this is counter-productive to what we are aiming to educate. I feel that 14 plants and 14 ounces of usable marijuana is too much and would increase the possibility of diversion to the streets and schools, of which would be detrimental to our neighbors, friends, families and communities.

As community leaders, what message are we trying to send out to our teens about drugs? A bill like this only serves to provide mixed messaging to our teens and thus may result in encouraging them to engage in the usage of dangerous and illegal substances such as marijuana. We need to prevent these type of vulnerabilities among our youth and protect them in any way we can and what better way then to start with laws that should be created to protect them rather than encourage negative behavior?

I feel that section 2 of House Bill 2675 HD1 is not necessary, we already know that under present State and Federal law that the State of Hawaii could not grow marijuana on any island unless authorized by the Federal Government to do so. Further the transporting of marijuana between islands utilizing areas controlled by Federal law enforcement would still be prohibited no matter what the proposed focus group came up with.

Due to these reasons and other concerns for our island youth and our communities, I do not support House Bill 2675 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

har1-En

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**From:** MCKAISERJ@wmconnect.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 11:57 AM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2675

**Fax# to the House Sergeant-at-Arms:** from O'ahu (808) 586-6501. Neighbor Isles 1(800) 535-3859  
**email:** PSMtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

## Testimony For HB2675

**Committee:** Public Safety and Military Affairs

**Chair:** Rep. Cindy Evans

**Vice-Chair:** Rep. Sharon E. Shar

2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309

**Position: SUPPORT**

Number of copies needed for committee: 14

Aloha Representative,

I am a medical marijuana patient registered with the State of Hawai'i department of Public Safety. I write to you today to urge your support for House Bill 2675, legislation that seeks to improve Hawaii's medicinal cannabis program. The original intent of this bill is to provide medical marijuana patients "safe access" to their medicine.

**It is not in the interest of the public safety of Hawai'i's residents to continually force our most vulnerable patients, those who do not respond well to standard pharmaceuticals, to the black market for the medicine that their doctors recommend.** There have been numerous recent cases of police harrasment towards medical marijuana patients, theft and violence. I no longer want to be treated like a criminal to acquire the medicine my doctor recommends.

Hawaii does not provide for a legal means of supplying marijuana. Discussing and acknowledging the right of patients to form **secure** collective and cooperative operations will allow for individual patients to have their needs met safely. This way, many patients can have an operation together, sharing knowledge and resources in one secure location that is easily transparent to local law enforcement.

The most critical issue facing Hawaii medical marijuana patients is the acquisition of our medicine. It is very difficult for individual patients to grow enough viable product to assure an "adequate supply," and/or find a responsible caregiver who will grow for them. Theft, bugs, disease, lacking knowledge of successful growing techniques and time-consuming trial and error, and dependence on an unethical, unregulated and illegal "black market" are issues patients face when growing medical marijuana. Allowing patients to grow more plants,

particularly in secure growing facilities, and possess more "usable product" will only ensure patients' safe access to medicine during times when issues arise.

It is very telling that in testimony to the Health Committee, the only opposition to the bill came from law enforcement officers and state and county prosecutor's offices. Doctors, patients and the legislature have supported an initiative to further protect patients. Last week, the American College of Physicians, a 124,000-member group that is the nation's largest for doctors of internal medicine, called on the federal government to ease its strict ban on marijuana as medicine and hasten research into the drug's therapeutic use. Meanwhile, Maui Police Chief Thomas Phillips testified against HB2675 claiming: "Marijuana as medicine is questionable at best, and debatable in scientific circles." He continued on, "We at the Maui Police Department do not support medical marijuana in its entirety." Apparently, he seeks to continue to treat medical marijuana patients like criminals, enforcing his agenda while failing to perform his duties as guided by the state law.

In 2000, the legislature found that medical research had discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated with certain debilitating illnesses. However, the legislature also recognized the need to regulate such use, for the health and welfare of our citizens. As a result, regulation of the medical use of marijuana was enacted into law in 2000 in act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000 and codified in part IX, Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

In its mission statement, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared that its goal is to speed along innovations that make foods and medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable. However, the FDA does not seem to have offered much information on the use of medical marijuana to improve our health. As a result, states have taken the initiative to find evidence to support the proposition that certain diseases and conditions respond favorably to medically controlled use of marijuana.

Further research on the medical efficacy is in the best interests of the state and the state's medical marijuana patients. Marijuana is currently classified as a schedule I controlled substance pursuant to section 329-14, HRS, which is a category designated for substances that have no medical value. This neither reflects the results of scientific research, past legislative action, nor the medical laws in at least 14 states. For the public safety of the citizens of Hawai'i, it may be worth considering changing the classification to a schedule III controlled substance.

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Mahalo for the Opportunity to testify.

Name: Richard C. Kaiser and Jeannie L. McMurry-Kaiser

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**From:** Satoshi Hirotsu [isseiproductions@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 12:30 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair: Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice-Chair: Rep. Sharon E. Shar  
2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309  
Position: SUPPORT  
Number of copies needed for committee: 14

Aloha Representative,

I am registered with the State of Hawai'i Department of Public Safety as a medical marijuana patient. I write to you today asking for your support for House Bill 2675. Current limits create hardships for patients and are unenforceable as written. By increasing the allowed supply and by eliminating the mature/immature specifics, House Bill 2675 will take a significant step towards improving our medical marijuana laws and helping Maui's sick and disabled patients acquire the medicine they need.

The laws as they exist today create difficult challenges for patients as they try to acquire their medicine. Given the complicated nature of medicinal cannabis cultivation, not to mention the threats of theft and raids, we know that current limits do not provide a patient with an adequate supply of medicine.

Furthermore, law enforcement officers are not trained in botanical sciences and are therefore unable to determine which plants are mature and which are not, making the current law unenforceable. These limits as they now stand are forcing Maui's most vulnerable patients to contend with Black Market dangers just to acquire the medicine recommended by their doctor.

When first crafted, Hawaii's medical marijuana laws were based on Oregon's laws, some of the first in the nation. Since then, the legislators and residents of Oregon have recognized the shortcomings of their plant and medicine limits and have expanded them accordingly. As we now realize the inadequacies of Hawaii's laws, we should also amend them to reflect the original intent of helping Hawaii's patients.

Part of assuring an adequate supply for Hawaii's medical marijuana patients is the establishment of law enforcement practices that will protect valid license holders from undue harassment and persecution. My understanding is that police officers are supposed to enforce laws, whether or not they support or understand the laws. The ugly reality was revealed when Maui Police Chief Thomas Phillips testified that "marijuana as medicine is questionable at best, and debatable in scientific circles" and "we at the Maui Police Department do not support medical marijuana in its entirety." Whether or not he supports a law should be irrelevant; if he wants to change the law, he should do so with the initiative process and not under color of abused authority.

Mahalo  
Stuart Hirotsu

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Looking for last minute shopping deals?

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**From:** Stuart Hirotsu [kotonk544@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 1:28 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675

**Attachments:** 1642209418-Oregonsb1085.en.pdf



Oregonsb1085.en.  
pdf (72 KB)

Testimony For HB2675

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair: Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice-Chair: Rep. Sharon E. Shar  
2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309  
Position: SUPPORT  
Number of copies needed for committee: 14

aloha

In considering HB2675, please refer to Oregon's Senate Bill 1085 (attached).

When Hawaii first created our medical marijuana laws, Oregon's laws and limits were used as a model for our own. Since then, the people and legislators of Oregon realized the inadequacies of their limits and revised them accordingly.

I urge you to study Oregon's changes as we consider our own.

mahalo  
Satoshi Hirotsu

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Looking for last minute shopping deals?  
Find them fast with Yahoo! Search. <http://tools.search.yahoo.com/newsearch/category.php?category=shopping>

**har1-En**

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**From:** Will Navran [willsilver@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 1:57 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675

Aloha Representative,

I am a medical marijuana patient registered with the State of Hawai'i department of Public Safety. I write to you today to urge your support for House Bill 2675, legislation that seeks to improve Hawaii's medicinal cannabis program. The original intent of this bill is to provide medical marijuana patients "safe access" to their medicine.

It is not in the interest of the public safety of Hawai'i's residents to continually force our most vulnerable patients, those who do not respond well to standard pharmaceuticals, to the black market for the medicine that their doctors recommend. There have been numerous recent cases of police harassment towards medical marijuana patients, theft and violence. I no longer want to be treated like a criminal to acquire the medicine my doctor recommends.

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The most critical issue facing Hawaii medical marijuana patients is the acquisition of our medicine. It is very difficult for individual patients to grow enough viable product to assure an "adequate supply," and/or find a responsible caregiver how will grow for them. Theft, bugs, disease, lacking knowledge of successful growing techniques and time-consuming trial and error, and dependence on an unethical, unregulated and illegal "black market" are issues patients face when growing medical marijuana. Allowing patients to grow more plants, particularly in secure growing facilities, and possess more "usable product" will only ensure patients' safe access to medicine during times when issues arise.

This last year my entire 7 plants were wiped out by some fungus which couldn't be controlled. This left me with nothing. It takes six months to have a finished product for use and in the meantime I have to use the black market. The other consideration is that I use a specific variety to treat my illness. It is very difficult to grow and I know of no one else who can supply this. I need an adequate supply for times when growing has its problems.

It is very telling that in testimony to the Health Committee, the only opposition to the bill came from law enforcement officers and state and county prosecutor's offices. Doctors, patients and the legislature have supported an initiative to further protect patients. Last week, the American College of Physicians, a 124,000-member group that is the nation's largest for doctors of internal medicine, called on the federal government to ease its strict ban on marijuana as medicine and hasten research into the drug's therapeutic use. Meanwhile, Maui Police Chief Thomas Phillips testified against HB2675 claiming: "Marijuana as medicine is questionable at best, and debatable in scientific circles." He continued on, "We at the Maui Police Department do not support medical marijuana in its entirety." Apparently, he seeks to continue to treat medical marijuana patients like criminals, enforcing his agenda while failing to perform his duties as guided by the state law.

2/29/2008

In 2000, the legislature found that medical research had discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated with certain debilitating illnesses. However, the legislature also recognized the need to regulate such use, for the health and welfare of our citizens. As a result, regulation of the medical use of marijuana was enacted into law in 2000 in act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000 and codified in part IX, Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

In its mission statement, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared that its goal is to speed along innovations that make foods and medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable. However, the FDA does not seem to have offered much information on the use of medical marijuana to improve our health. As a result, states have taken the initiative to find evidence to support the proposition that certain diseases and conditions respond favorably to medically controlled use of marijuana.

Further research on the medical efficacy is in the best interests of the state and the state's medical marijuana patients. Marijuana is currently classified as a schedule I controlled substance pursuant to section 329-14, HRS, which is a category designated for substances that have no medical value. This neither reflects the results of scientific research, past legislative action, nor the medical laws in at least 14 states. For the public safety of the citizens of Hawai'i, it may be worth considering changing the classification to a schedule III controlled substance.

In 2006, the California attorney general's office joined the American Civil Liberties Union, American for Safe Access, and the Drug Policy Alliance in arguing that state medical marijuana laws are not invalidated by conflicting federal statutes, an opinion previously voiced by Hawai'i's attorney general. The groups argued that while the federal government is free to enforce its ban on medical marijuana, even in states such as California that permit its use, all states remain free to adopt and implement medical marijuana policies of their own design. An attorney for the Drug Policy Alliance stated that, "The ruling upholds the state of California's sovereign right to fashion common-sense, responsible and compassionate policies for its residents.

Mahalo for the Opportunity to testify.

William Navran

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Executive Director

February 29, 2008

To: Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

From: Cynthia J. Goto, M.D., President  
Linda Rasmussen, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair  
Philip Hellreich, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair  
Paula Arcena, Executive Director  
Dick Botti, Government Affairs Liaison

**PLEASE DELIVER to:**  
**Public Safety &  
Military Affairs Comm.**

Friday  
2/29/2008  
2:15pm  
Room 309

Re: HB2675 HD1 Relating to Medical Marijuana (Authorizes the use of a written certification or its equivalent issued by another state government to permit the medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient in place of a certificate provided by the Department of Public Safety.)

The Hawaii Medical Association opposes HB2675 HD1.

We oppose these bills for the following reasons:

- The medical efficacy of marijuana has yet to be proven by evidence based scientific studies;
- Smoking marijuana exposes patients to, among other health risks, lung damage, increased symptoms of chronic bronchitis, and possibly increased risk of lung cancer. These are the same risk associated with smoking nicotine.

The HMA supports efforts to study and identification of the medical benefit of marijuana. However, until the efficacy of marijuana is demonstrated, we are unable to support access to medical marijuana.

The HMA supports the position of the American Medical Association, which is as follows:

- 1) The AMA calls for further adequate and well-controlled studies of marijuana and related cannabinoids in patients who have serious conditions for which preclinical, anecdotal, or controlled evidence suggests possible efficacy and the application of such results to the understanding and treatment of disease;

Hawaii Medical Association  
1360 S. Beretania St.  
Suite 200  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
(808) 536-7702  
(808) 528-2376 fax  
www.hmaonline.net

- 2) The AMA recommends that marijuana be retained in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act pending the outcome of such studies.
- 3) The AMA urges the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to implement administrative procedures to facilitate grant applications and the conduct of well-designed clinical research into the medical utility of marijuana. This effort should include:
  - a) disseminating specific information for researchers on the development of safeguards for marijuana clinical research protocols and the development of a model informed consent on marijuana for institutional review board evaluation;
  - b) sufficient funding to support such clinical research and access for qualified investigators to adequate supplies of marijuana for clinical research purposes;
  - c) confirming that marijuana of various and consistent strengths and/or placebo will be supplied by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to investigators registered with the Drug Enforcement Agency who are conducting bona fide clinical research studies that receive Food and Drug Administration approval, regardless of whether or not the NIH is the primary source of grant support.
- 4) The AMA believes that the NIH should use its resources and influence to support the development of a smoke-free inhaled delivery system for marijuana or delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to reduce the health hazards associated with the combustion and inhalation of marijuana.
- 5) The AMA believes that effective patient care requires the free and unfettered exchange of information on treatment alternatives and that discussion of these alternatives between physicians and patients should not subject either party to criminal sanctions.

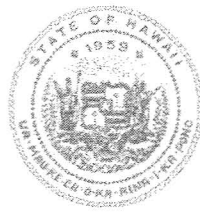
Physicians work everyday to heal their patients and to alleviate pain and suffering.

This issue often solicits emotional testimonials from patients and their families who believe in the therapeutic value of marijuana.

However, physicians cannot ethically prescribe drugs which are not scientifically-proven.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

CLAYTON A. FRANK  
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING  
Deputy Director  
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2675 HD1  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA  
by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Friday, February 29, 2008, 2:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309

Representative Evans, Representative Har, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety strongly opposes House Bill 2675 HD1, which attempts to amend the definition of "adequate supply" as listed in Section 329-121 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes by increasing the number of marijuana plants to fourteen plants that can jointly be possessed between the qualifying patient and the primary caregiver and up to one ounce of usable marijuana per plant. This would bring the total amount of usable marijuana to fourteen ounces. Presently Hawaii law allows a qualifying patient and the patient's primary caregiver to possess three mature plants and four immature plants and one ounce of usable marijuana per mature plant, which would bring the total amount of usable marijuana to three ounces. Presently there are twelve states with medical use of marijuana programs, most of which have kept the number of allowable marijuana plants to around six mature plants and varying amounts

of authorized processed marijuana, with only one state allowing over fourteen ounces  
(Refer to Table 1).

TABLE 1: State Limits on Possesion of Medical Marijuana

State	Year Enacted	#of Plants	Amount of Processed Marijuana
Alaska	1999	6 (3 mature)	1 oz
California	1996	12 (6 mature)	8 oz
Colorado	2000	6 (3 mature)	2 oz
Hawaii	2000	7 (3 mature)	3 oz
Maine	1999	6 (3 mature)	1.25 oz
Montana	2004	6	1 oz
Nevada	2000	7 (3 mature)	1 oz
New Mexico	2007	7 (4 mature)	6 oz
Oregon	1998	24 (6 mature)	24 oz
Rhode Island	2006	12	2.5 oz
Vermont	2004	7 (2 mature)	2 oz
Washington	1996	?	60 day supply

The Department feels that the possession of fourteen plants and fourteen ounces of usable marijuana is too much for medical use and would increase the possibility of diversion to the streets and schools. The Department does agree that the number of authorized marijuana plants should be simplified to seven plants and that the amount of usable marijuana be set at not more than three ounces. The Department therefore recommends that on page 1, lines 11 through 14 be amended to read as follows:

"adequate supply" shall not exceed [~~three mature marijuana plants,  
four immature marijuana plants,~~] seven marijuana plants and [~~one ounce of~~] not more than three ounces of usable marijuana, [~~per each mature plant.~~]

The Department feels that three ounces of usable marijuana is adequate due to the fact that a patient may be in possession of three ounces of usable marijuana since he would be able refill his bag back to the three ounce limit if he runs low.

The Department feels that Section 2 of House Bill 2675 HD1 is not necessary. We already know that under present State and Federal laws, the State of Hawaii could not grow marijuana on any island unless authorized by the Federal Government. Further the transporting of marijuana between islands utilizing areas controlled by Federal law enforcement would still be prohibited, no matter what the proposed focus group came up with. The Department feels that there is no value in convening another taskforce or focus group unless there is a change in Federal law relating to marijuana.

Due to these reasons and other liability concerns for the State, the Department does not support House Bill 2675 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

## har1-En

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**From:** Brian Murphy [mccfdia@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 2:57 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675

Testimony For HB2675

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair: Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice-Chair: Rep. Sharon E. Shar  
2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309  
Position: SUPPORT  
Number of copies needed for committee: 14

Aloha Representative,

I am a medical marijuana patient registered with the State of Hawai'i department of Public Safety. I write to you today to urge your support for House Bill 2675, legislation that seeks to improve Hawaii's medicinal cannabis program. The original intent of this bill is to provide medical marijuana patients "safe access" to their medicine.

It is not in the interest of the public safety of Hawai'i's residents to continually force our most vulnerable patients, those who do not respond well to standard pharmaceuticals, to the black market for the medicine that their doctors recommend. There have been numerous recent cases of police harrasment towards medical marijuana patients, theft and violence. I no longer want to be treated like a criminal to acquire the medicine my doctor recommends.

Hawaii does not provide for a legal means of supplying marijuana. Discussing and acknowledging the right of patients to form secure collective and cooperative operations will allow for individual patients to have their needs met safely. This way, many patients can have an operation together, sharing knowledge and resources in one secure location that is easily transparent to local law enforcement.

The most critical issue facing Hawaii medical marijuana patients is the acquisition of our medicine. It is very difficult for individual patients to grow enough viable product to assure an "adequate supply," and/or find a responsible caregiver how will grow for them. Theft, bugs, disease, lacking knowledge of successful growing techniques and time-consuming trial and error, and dependence on an unethical, unregulated and illegal "black market" are issues patients face when growing medical marijuana. Allowing patients to grow more plants, particularly in secure growing facilities, and possess more "usable product" will only ensure patients' safe access to medicine during times when issues arise.

It is very telling that in testimony to the Health Committee, the only opposition to the bill came from law enforcement officers and state and county prosecutor's offices. Doctors, patients and the legislature have supported an initiative to further protect patients. Last week, the American College of Physicians, a 124,000-member group that is the nation's largest for doctors of internal medicine, called on the federal government to ease its strict ban on marijuana as medicine and hasten research into the drug's therapeutic use. Meanwhile, Maui Police Chief Thomas Phillips testified against HB2675 claiming: "Marijuana as medicine is questionable at best, and debatable in scientific circles." He continued on, "We at the Maui Police Department do not support medical marijuana in its entirety." Apparently, he seeks to continue to treat medical marijuana patients like criminals, enforcing his agenda while failing to perform his duties as guided by the state law.

In 2000, the legislature found that medical research had discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated with certain debilitating illnesses.

However, the legislature also recognized the need to regulate such use, for the health and welfare of our citizens. As a result, regulation of the medical use of marijuana was enacted into law in 2000 in act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000 and codified in part IX, Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

In its mission statement, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared that its goal is to speed along innovations that make foods and medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable. However, the FDA does not seem to have offered much information on the use of medical marijuana to improve our health. As a result, states have taken the initiative to find evidence to support the proposition that certain diseases and conditions respond favorably to medically controlled use of marijuana.

Further research on the medical efficacy is in the best interests of the state and the state's medical marijuana patients. Marijuana is currently classified as a schedule I controlled substance pursuant to section 329-14, HRS, which is a category designated for substances that have no medical value. This neither reflects the results of scientific research, past legislative action, nor the medical laws in at least 14 states. For the public safety of the citizens of Hawai'i, it may be worth considering changing the classification to a schedule III controlled substance.

In 2006, the California attorney general's office joined the American Civil Liberties Union, American for Safe Access, and the Drug Policy Alliance in arguing that state medical marijuana laws are not invalidated by conflicting federal statutes; an opinion previously voiced by Hawai'i's attorney general. The groups argued that while the federal government is free to enforce its ban on medical marijuana, even in states such as California that permit its use, all states remain free to adopt and implement medical marijuana policies of their own design. An attorney for the Drug Policy Alliance stated that, "The ruling upholds the state of California's sovereign right to fashion common-sense, responsible and compassionate policies for its residents.

Mahalo  
William Cole

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
AREA CODE 808 • 527-6494

PETER B. CARLISLE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE CINDY EVANS, CHAIR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

February 29, 2008

**RE: H.B. 2675, H.D. 1; RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.**

Chair Evans and members of the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 2675, H.D. 1.

The purpose of this bill is to increase the amount of medical marijuana that a qualifying patient and the primary caregiver may possess from three ounces of usable marijuana from three mature plants and four immature plants to fourteen ounces of usable marijuana from fourteen marijuana plants. In addition, this bill sets up a medical marijuana task force which shall: 1) study the feasibility of setting up safe growing facilities on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai and Oahu; and 2) seek possible solutions to issues of inter-island travel with medical marijuana.

We oppose this bill as being unwarranted and unwise. We believe the current three ounce limitation for medical marijuana is sufficient. Expansion to fourteen ounces, at four to five times the current limitation appears excessive. Given the large amount of marijuana fourteen ounces constitutes and the lack of explanation for the necessity for increasing the amount of marijuana, we strongly oppose this provision.

We also oppose the creation of a task force to study setting up safe growing facilities and solutions to the issues of inter-island travel. The possession and distribution of marijuana is still a violation of federal law, thus we cannot see how a task force could make suggestions regarding safe growing facilities or somehow permitting medical marijuana to be transported inter-island.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you hold H.B. 2675, H.D. 1 and thank you for this opportunity to testify.



## har1-En

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**From:** Dan Goldstein [newssteamboat@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 4:35 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair: Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice-Chair: Rep. Sharon E. Shar  
2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309  
Position: SUPPORT  
Number of copies needed for committee: 14

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Mahalo for the Opportunity to testify.  
Dan Goldstein

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**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

**FROM:** PAMELA LICHTY, PRESIDENT

**RE:** HB 2675, HD 1 RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA – **IN SUPPORT**

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 29, 2008

The Drug Policy Action Group is in support of this proposal to increase the amount of medical marijuana plants that can be grown by a qualifying patient and/or caregiver and likewise to increase the amount of ready to use material that these individuals would have be able to keep on hand.

We also support the provision setting up a task force on growing issues, including security, and inter-island transportation issues.

There are many other proposals that are not addressed in this limited measure relating to the state's medical marijuana program that would greatly improve it for the almost 4,000 patients currently enrolled. If it were possible to expand the purview of the task force to examine and make recommendations on some of these other issues, DPAG would be pleased to assist in both the redrafting and the work of the task force itself. Given today's deadline, we recognize that any amendments may need to be postponed until crossover.

We very much appreciate the Committee hearing this bill today and look forward to continuing to work on fostering improvements to the Hawai'i's humane and compassionate medical marijuana program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Drug Policy Action Group** · P.O. Box 61233 · Honolulu, HI 96839 *phone/fax:* 808 988 4386  
*email:* [Plichty@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Plichty@hawaii.rr.com) · *web:* [www.dpfhi.org](http://www.dpfhi.org)

## har1-En

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**From:** Kathleen Vierra [kittymarie@clearwire.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 7:09 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony For HB2675

Fri, 29 Feb 2008 00:05:51 -0500 [12:05AM EST]

Testimony For HB2675

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair: Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice-Chair: Rep. Sharon E. Shar  
2-29-08 at 2:15 pm in House Conference Room 309  
Position: SUPPORT  
Number of copies needed for committee: 14

Aloha Representative,

I am a medical marijuana patient registered with the State of Hawai'i department of Public Safety. I am a 57-year-old conservative Christian female. I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis in 1998 and Fybromyalgia in 2002.

Throughout the years of treatment I have developed allergic reactions to Rheumatoid Arthritis treatments and other common medications:

- Piroxicam, Methotrexate,
- Cephalexin, Minocycline, Clindamycin, Hydroxychloroquine, Azathioprine-Imuran
- Penicillamine, Sulfonamides, Neomy-Bacit-Polymyx
- Pramoxine, Gold, N-SAIDS,
- Estrogen, Maxzide,
- Remicade, Glucosamine, Arava, Rituxan, Beta
- Adrenergic Blockers, Imatrex

My Kaiser Rheumatologist prescribed Medical Marijuana to me after many treatments failed. With such a sensitive system, my battle with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Fybromyalgia has basically come down to Enbrel, when I can tolerate it, and pain management. I have prescriptions for Vicodin and Morphine Sulfate to use as needed.

During a recent flare-up I had to use regular doses of both Vicodin and Morphine Sulfate since I could not tolerate Enbrel at the time and did not have marijuana. My body was not able to handle these strong narcotics and on February 4, 2008, I lost consciousness and when I came to, I was unable to move the left side of my body. This was not the first time my body has reacted this way to medications and I have had to undergo Physical Therapy to regain function.

When I have marijuana, it alleviates the pain quickly. Since it is a natural herb without synthetic chemicals, my body is able to accept it. However, growing my own marijuana has been a challenge in itself and my supply is not guaranteed. I have had days when the pain of Rheumatoid Arthritis and Fybromyalgia flare-ups have been so severe, I have not been able to get out of bed. Marijuana helps me function normally.

If there were some legal means to access marijuana or have assistance in growing it, I know the quality of my life would be greatly improved. I hope a system can be established to help people like myself get relief legally and consistently.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Vierra  
Kathleen Vierra

DECISION MAKING TO FOLLOW  
Bill No: HB 2675 HD1

Bill Title: RELATING TO MARIJUANA

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Chair: Representative Cindy Evans Co Chair: Representative Sharon E. Har

Hearing Date: Friday, February 29, 2008 Hearing Time: 2:15 P.M.

Hearing Location: Conference Room 309

Testimony from: Lila G. Rattner

91-211 Makaina Place

Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

808-685-6677

[Lilasol47@aol.com](mailto:Lilasol47@aol.com)

[www.wohfac.com](http://www.wohfac.com)

Representing: Myself and West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation

Aloha Representative Cindy Evan (*Chair*), Representative Sharon E. Har (*Vice Chair*) and Committee Members,

My name is Lila Rattner and I am the very proud mother and caregiver to my son, Joseph B. Rattner, who is the Founder and President of West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation, better known as WOHFAC. I am also the Treasurer of this Ohana Foundation. I am here to explain to this Committee why Medical Marijuana is so crucial to the sick individuals who require it for their very existence.

Both patients' and caregivers are concerned with the use of any Opiate drug. However, when Doctors prescribe medications to eat, stop nausea and relieve the pain of their various diseases. So in fact I do not believe that anyone has right to hold back a patients dire Medication.

All the licensed marijuana patients and their prescribing physicians take great care in ordering and dispensing the medications. The patients do

not SELL to schoolchildren or share their medications with unlicensed friends.

Most patients have the luxury of going to a pharmacy to receive their medications. The licensed patient and their caregivers must try their best to grow a crop, praying for the knowledge, after waiting weeks to determine the plants sex (male/female)? The worry of during harvesting, wet weather creates a dangerous pungent odor that attracts the Addicts and Drug Dealers to our Home and our Ohana. Putting our lives in danger!

If our plants fail, as has happened to our family this past year, and a couple of months goes by before I can go purchase mature female plants, my sons life wound up on the line, leaving him in the hospital at a weight of one hundred and two (102) pounds, totally dehydrated from being unable to swallow and needing weekly blood transfusions to help him survive. *Last November I almost lost my only son of forty one (41) years.*

Today, my son weighs one hundred and sixty (160) pounds, with minimal pain, much less nausea, reduced stress and most importantly the ease of swallowing his HIV Medications. I had to resort to the 'black market' and deal with the very people I have always feared the most. Only, because my sons life was at stake.

I support a secure growing facility that would allow all licensed patients to get their medication without supporting the local drug pushers' or risking their lives. All in all, the expansion of the Medical Marijuana Program will put these pushers OUT OF BUSINESS and away from our keiki.

For this and many other reasons, I strongly support HB 2675 HD1.

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Liia G. Rattner

808-685-6677

har1-En

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**From:** JustALittleNova@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 12:34 AM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** MEDICAL MARIJUANA Bill HB2675 HD1

Aloha

This is support of Bill HB 2675 HD1

I was diagnosed with HIV in 1989, and have been a Medical Marijuana user.

The positive effects of being able to gain access to this Natural Alternative Herb for me are:

I have been able to keep my weight stable by having an appetite and eating well.

I am consistent with my HIV Medical regime because I know that my nausea and vomiting will be minimal if at all.

Medical Marijuana helps me to cope with the depression regarding the Medical situation that I am in.

*I sincerely hope that you will Compassionately find it in your Heart and Conscious to Please Have A Hearing.*

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

**URGENT! Please have a Hearing for House Bill 2675 HD1 as amended**

**This Bill is extremely important to the HIV community in Hawaii**

The Health Committee has put a lot of work into this measure. Please support this measure and have a hearing!

2/29/2008



**Blessings of Aloha  
A Hui Hou  
Malama Pono  
NovaLei Gonzale**

## **MEDICAL MARIJUANA Bill HB2675 HD1**

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Delicious ideas to please the pickiest eaters. [Watch the video on AOL Living.](#)





the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
of hawaii

February 29, 2008

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Law Emer.

Robert Perkinson, Ph.D.

*Donald Topping, Ph.D.*  
*Founder 1929-2003*

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To: Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: HB 2675 HD1 Relating to Medical Marijuana  
Friday, February 29, 2008, 2:15 p.m., Room 309

Position: Strong Support

Good afternoon, the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 2675 HD1 which would increase the adequate supply of marijuana for medical marijuana patients who hold valid certificates; and would establish a taskforce to study certain issues related to the medical marijuana program.

No changes have been made to the medical marijuana program since it was established in 2000. One of the most requested changes by patients is in the allowable adequate supply and in the distinction between mature and immature plants. This proposal helps to ensure that a patient has an adequate and consistent supply of medical marijuana.

Hawaii's medical marijuana program allows patients to grow their own medicine; however, patients often complain that the plants are not that easy to grow to maturity; the weather affects the yield of their plants; and they cannot grow a consistent supply.

Patients who register with the medical marijuana program want to be law-abiding citizens. They do not want to go to the criminal market to purchase marijuana and do not want to add to the profits of criminals. This change would help them avoid that.

Eliminating the distinction between mature and immature plants helps in law enforcement since it is often difficult to distinguish one from the other. Law enforcement officers are not horticulturists and should not be placed in the position of determining how many mature and immature plants a patient possesses.

Earlier this month the American College of Physicians (ACP), a 124,000 member organization issued a position paper on medical marijuana. Among the positions in that paper:

- ACP strongly supports exemption from federal criminal prosecution; civil liability; or professional sanctioning, for physicians who prescribe or dispense medical marijuana in accordance with state law.
- ACP strongly urges protection from criminal or civil penalties for patients who use medical marijuana as permitted under state laws.
- ACP urges review of marijuana's status as a schedule I controlled substance and its reclassification into a more appropriate schedule, given the scientific evidence regarding marijuana's safety and efficacy in some clinical conditions. (Schedule I drugs are drugs with no accepted medical use and high potential for abuse.)

The current Schedule I classification conflicts with reviews of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) which found that scientific studies support the medical use of marijuana for treatment; and that compared with other legal and illegal drugs, including alcohol and cocaine, dependence among marijuana users is relatively rare and dependence is less severe than dependence on other drugs.

The report also explains the concern that marijuana is a "gateway" drug is unfounded and that the IOM concluded that marijuana has not been proven to be the cause or even the most serious predictor of drug abuse. This continued confusion hinders opportunities to evaluate its medical uses and its availability to patients who need it.

We urge you to pass this measure which would help seriously ill patients in Hawaii. Thank you for hearing this bill and for this opportunity to testify.



February 29, 2008

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you on behalf of Save Our Society From Drugs (SOS), a national non-profit drug policy organization with constituents in your state, to urge you to reject House Bill 2675.

It is my understanding that this bill would increase the "adequate supply" amount of marijuana plants an individual would be able to possess for so-called medicinal purposes to fourteen marijuana plants. A typical marijuana plant produces 1 to 5 pounds of materials to be smoked a year. It is estimated that 1 ounce of marijuana rolls approximately 60-120 joints. If this bill is approved, an individual could possess between 67, 200 to 134,400 joints at any given time an amount well beyond one person's need for "medicinal" purposes.

Another problem with this bill is the establishment of a "medical" marijuana task force within the University of Hawaii. Why is the state government of Hawaii setting up a task force to conspire on ways to break federal law? Would this put the University of Hawaii in jeopardy of losing federal funding?

The goals of the proposed task force include studying the feasibility of safe growing facilities on each of Hawaii's islands and determining how to best break the federal laws of transporting "medical" marijuana from island to island. Why is the state involved in protecting this so-called pharmaceutical, and what other drugs are getting the same state involvement as pot? When considering the feasibility of safe growing sites, one must also consider crime statistics and the fact that such a facility would put state law in conflict with federal law. Police in both Canada and California report that marijuana cultivation is one of their main drug enforcement problems and that criminal activity around such areas has reached epidemic levels.

Lastly, this bill also addresses giving certification to individuals who have recommendations for so-called medical marijuana in other states, allowing them to use 'medical' marijuana in the state of Hawaii. All states have different requirements as to how individuals qualify, how will Hawaii regulate those varying requirements?

I urge you to vote No on House Bill 2675 as it is obvious that this bill has too many unaddressed issues that the citizens of Hawaii deserve to know the answers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Fay".

Calvina Fay  
Executive Director

2600 9th Street North, Suite 200 • St. Petersburg, FL 33704 • 727-828-0210  
Fax: 727-828-0212 • [www.saveoursociety.org](http://www.saveoursociety.org)

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Lawrence K. Mahun  
Police Chief

Harry S. Kubojiri  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawaii

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

February 29, 2008

Representative Cindy Evans  
Chairperson and Members  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: House Bill 2675, Relating To Medical Marijuana**

Dear Representative Evans and Members:

The Hawai'i Police Department strongly opposes the passage of House Bill 2675, Relating To Medical Marijuana; that increases the number of marijuana plants allowed for medical use by a patient with written certification to 14 plants and creates the medical marijuana task force to discuss the value of constructing secure growing facilities for medical marijuana and study inter-island transport issues related to medical marijuana.

The Hawai'i Police Department has, within the past year, conducted investigations into the illegal growing of marijuana and, upon executing search warrants, discovered that the occupants possessed medical marijuana permits. For example, in one instance, a search warrant executed on a residence after hashish was purchased from the residence, officers recovered hashish, along with hashish manufacturing paraphernalia, and marijuana. The residence was found to have three (3) occupants that possessed medical marijuana permits, one of whom was the suspect in the sale of the hashish. Another incident involved the execution of a search warrant on a residence for an "indoor grow" operation for marijuana. The occupant (who possessed a medical marijuana permit) had seven (7) "mature" marijuana plants, each of which had in excess of one (1) pound (dried weight) of marijuana leaves and buds per plant.

In 2007, in East Hawai'i sixty-three (63) marijuana-related search warrants were executed on properties for either indoor or outdoor growing of marijuana. Of these, thirteen (13) resulted in occupants possessing medical marijuana permits; however, only one (1) of the thirteen (13) were found to be in compliance, with the remaining twelve (12) to have on the average in excess of 100 marijuana plants.

What is the justification to increase the number of marijuana plants, as it is a fact that just one mature marijuana plant can produce several ounces of "processed" marijuana. Should this bill be adopted, what is to become of the excess amount of "processed" marijuana? Is the State of Hawai'i sending a message that we are condoning the distribution of a controlled substance? In comparison, law enforcement actively participates in proactive "sting" operations that seek to enforce the numerous laws, both Federal and State that prevent the sale/distribution of tobacco and alcohol to minors. However, with this measure by increasing the number of plants allowed, is the State of Hawai'i thus potentially creating a "surplus" of processed marijuana, which could be distributed to minors, with no possibility of proactive enforcement activity?

Representative Cindy Evans  
Chairperson and Members  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
February 29, 2008  
Page 2

Marijuana is still a controlled substance under both Federal and Hawai'i State law; therefore, it would be hypocritical for law enforcement to support the passage of a law seeking to establish a Task Force which utilizes public resources and funds to conduct research into inter-island transport issues related to medical marijuana attempting to circumvent Federal and State laws. The message could be interpreted as the State of Hawai'i Legislature providing funding for research into legalizing drug trafficking within the State.

To expand the medical marijuana permitted amount from its current restrictions will only assist those individuals currently generating huge profits from the illegal growing of marijuana using the medical marijuana law to aid themselves in avoiding detection. The passage of this bill would further hamper law enforcement in its efforts to control this drug and the related crimes it brings with it.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to reject this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to testify on H.B. No. 2675

Sincerely,



LAWRENCE K. MAHUNA  
POLICE CHIEF

pkf

har1-En

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**From:** Andrea Tischler [andreatischler@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 10:08 AM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Military Affairs HB2675

Honorable Legislative members of Public Safety Military Affairs:

I would like to offer my support for HB No. 2675 regarding medical marijuana legislation that you will be hearing on February 29 (Leap Day) and regret that I will not be able to personally testify. I am a cannabis activist and have worked in the policy reform movement for nearly two decades. I am, also, a resident of Hawaii, a patient and make my home in Hilo.

My thoughts and beliefs are that the medical marijuana legislation which became law in 2000 in Hawaii was seriously deficient in that it neglected to address how to implement a distribution system. What is the point of having a law that states the patient can obtain a physician's recommendation and a State license to possess and use medical marijuana, which at the same time disregards a safe and equitable system for ensuring that the patient has access to the medicine?

Under the present law our most ill are treated like second class citizens who must take dangerous risks to obtain their medicine, are victimized by unscrupulous thugs and often fear arrest. The headline today read "More than one in every one hundred Americans is behind bars". Many of the people in prison are medical marijuana patients all across the country. Patients do not want to support the criminal world because they are not criminals. Nor do patients want to come into contact with criminals. They want and should be guaranteed by our government a regulated and safe way of obtaining the best quality organic variety of medicine for their individual illness. We should be ashamed for having waited eight years to update medical marijuana law so that patients may improve their lives and be enabled to better manage their illnesses and reduce the fear of arrest.

Please increase the number of marijuana plants with certification to 14 plants and create the medical marijuana task force to discuss the value of making and constructing secure growing facility for medical marijuana. I beg you to pass HB2675. You have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many thousands of seriously ill patients. This is a matter of great medical need and a safety concern that is important to all of us. It commands your immediate action. After eight years it's time to take action. Mahalo.

Andrea Tischler  
Hilo, HI

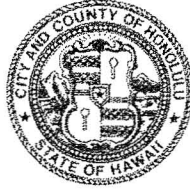
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POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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BOISSE P. CORREA  
CHIEF

PAUL B. PUTZULU  
MICHAEL D. TUCKER  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KI-TA

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety  
and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Evans and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2675, H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Marijuana

I am Kerry Inouye, Acting Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes House Bill No. 2675, H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Marijuana. This bill continues to raise concerns from a law enforcement perspective.

While we have compassion for those seeking relief from suffering brought on by medical conditions, the Honolulu Police Department continues to question the use of marijuana for this purpose, as this violates federal law. Toward this end, the creation of a task force to study topics such as the feasibility of growing facilities and the challenges regarding written certification, does not make sense.

Furthermore, the department has concerns regarding how medical marijuana can be restricted to use only by qualified patients with bona fide medical conditions. Increasing the number of plants a qualifying patient can possess also increases the opportunity for marijuana to be diverted toward illicit, nonmedical use. If a person is truly using marijuana for medical purposes alone, the person only needs to possess that amount which allows medical application as required.

*Serving and Protecting With Aloha*

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair  
and Members

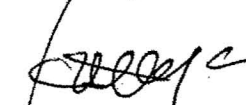
Page 2

February 29, 2008

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Bill No. 2675,  
H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Marijuana.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



KERRY INOUE, Acting Major  
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



BOISSE P. CORREA  
Chief of Police



## **Tommie Suganuma**

---

**From:** Lance Caspary [kcraw@kona.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 8:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** Please support HB 2675

Lance Caspary  
PO 1316  
Kapa`au, HI 96755

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Evans:

HB 2675 is a good bill that I would like you to support. This bill would create a task force to examine allowing patients and their caregivers to obtain medicine from an alternate source. This would take the guesswork out of obtaining medicine for many patients, allowing them to rest a little easier.

The bill would also increase possession limits from 3 ounces to 14 ounces. This is more in line with what other states allow their patient to possess, like Oregon (24 ounces), Washington state (a 60-day supply) and many places in California.

Please give this bill your full support when it comes up for hearing before your committee this Friday.

Mahalo,

Lance Caspary  
808 884 5321

## **Tommie Sukanuma**

---

**From:** Adam Lehmann [projpeacefulsky@care2.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 10:07 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Cc:** Rep. Sharon Har; Rep. Marilyn Lee; Rep. Sylvia Luke; Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. Bob Nakasone; Rep. Scott Nishimoto; repsonsonj@capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Joseph Souki  
**Subject:** Support HB 2675

Aloha to all on the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee!

My name is Adam Lehmann and I live on the Big Island of Hawaii and I wish to support HB 2675 to be passed into law this year.

Seven plants, (only three mature), is just not enough for anywhere near an adequate supply for some patients.

Cannabis is a harmless plant that a patient cannot overdose on and results in exactly 0 (zero) deaths per year.

Cannabis is a safe medicine and taxpayers money and law enforcements better judgement should not be misappropriated away from serious issues in order to deal with a victimless crime!

The less money and resources spent on personal use cases of Cannabis will provide (1)law enforcement more time and energy to focus on serious crimes, (2)our courts more time to run more efficiently, and (3)more room in our prisons for serious criminals.

Every person that I have spoken with from the communities here on the Big Island support HB2675 and would like to see it take effect as soon as possible!

Please Support HB 2675 Today!

Please call or contact me with any questions or comments.

Thank You very much for representing us all, Mahalo Nui Loa!

Aloha!  
Adam Lehmann - Project Peaceful Sky  
(808) 854 -4230  
projpeacefulsky@care2.com

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the University  
2 of Hawaii for administrative purposes a medical marijuana task  
3 force. The college of tropical agriculture and human resources  
4 shall be responsible for administering the work of the medical  
5 marijuana task force, providing a facilitator, and submitting a  
6 report to the legislature. The goals of the task force shall be  
7 to:

- 8           (1) Examine current laws regarding the adequate supply of  
9 marijuana for medical use to ensure sufficient amounts  
10 of medicine for a qualified patient's needs;
- 11           (2) Study the feasibility of developing safe growing  
12 facilities on each of the islands of Hawaii, Kauai,  
13 Lanai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu for qualified patients  
14 with written certification to grow medical marijuana  
15 for their medical use; and
- 16           (3) Seek possible solutions to challenges faced by  
17 qualified patients with written certification when  
18 faced with inter-island travel, resulting from



1 statutory prohibitions, including federal law that  
2 prohibits travel with medical marijuana.

3 (b) The members of the medical marijuana task force shall  
4 consist of eleven members as follows:

5 (1) The director of public safety or the director's  
6 designee;

7 (2) The director of health or the director's designee;

8 (3) The director of transportation or the director's  
9 designee;

10 (4) The attorney general or the attorney general's  
11 designee;

12 (5) Three members of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii as  
13 designated by the chairperson of the Drug Policy Forum  
14 of Hawaii;

15 (6) Three patient advocates to be appointed as follows:

16 (A) One appointed by the governor;

17 (B) One appointed by the president of the senate; and

18 (C) One appointed by the speaker of the house of  
19 representatives; and

20 (7) A prescribing physician as designated by the board of  
21 medical examiners established under chapter 453,  
22 Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 (c) The medical marijuana task force shall submit a report  
2 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
3 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 the 2009 regular session.

5 (d) The medical marijuana task force shall cease to exist  
6 on June 30, 2009.

7 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 2675  
H.D. 2  
PROPOSED

**Report Title:**

Medical Marijuana

**Description:**

Creates the medical marijuana task force to discuss the value of constructing secure growing facilities for medical marijuana and study inter-island travel issues related to medical marijuana.  
(PROPOSED HB2675 HD2)



## **Tommie Sukanuma**

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**From:** Eric Moon [ejmoon1@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 6:49 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** HB 2675

Eric Moon  
2444 Hihiwai Street, Suite 2004  
Honolulu, HI 96826-5112

February 29, 2008

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Evans:

I wish to add my voice to those who support this legislation. We should not make life more difficult for people who benefit from marijuana as medicine just because it has pleasant side effects.

Sincerely,

Eric Moon  
808 947-5340

## **Tommie Sukanuma**

---

**From:** Scott Temple [patempl@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 7:04 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** HB 2675

Scott Temple  
HCR1 box 5269  
Keaau, HI 96749-9517

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Representative Evans:

Please support HB 2675. This is a good idea and an excellent improvement to our current medical marijuana law.

Patients need safe, reliable access to their medicine, and HB 2675 would allow the state of Hawaii to examine this issue further.

Sincerely,

Scott Temple



## **Tommie Sukanuma**

---

**From:** Matthew Rifkin [mattrifkin@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 7:11 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** HB 2675

Matthew Rifkin  
73-4622 Mamalahoa Hwy  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740-8655

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Representative Evans:

When HB 2675 comes up for hearing this Friday, I hope you will support it. This is a good addition to our current medical marijuana law and is tightly drafted to ensure that it is successful.

Not only would this bill increase possession limits from 7 plants to 14 plants; it removes the confusing distinction between mature and immature plants. Having our law enforcement, who are not trained horticulturists, make a distinction that trained botanists often have trouble making is not very smart.

Please give this bill your full support.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rifkin  
808-325-9759

## **Tommie Sukanuma**

---

**From:** William Bain [billbainsf@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 7:22 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** Medical Marijuana Improvement legislation

William Bain  
212 E Ikea Kai Pl  
Wailea, HI 96753-7726

February 29, 2008

**LATE TESTIMONY**

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Evans:

HB 2675 is a step in the right direction because it recognizes the fact that medical marijuana is difficult to grow and it is even more difficult to maintain a steady supply of it.

Please do everything that you can to see that it receives a favorable report this Friday when it comes up for a hearing.

As a long-time caregiver to people with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, including cancer, I can only add my voice to this large and growing chorus. We need to bring this form of relief to people who are suffering. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

William Bain  
808-879-1212

## **Tommie Suganuma**

---

**From:** Blair Van Pelt [bebopblair@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 9:02 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** HB 2675 is meaningful to my life

Blair Van Pelt  
PO Box 10415  
hilo, HI 96721-5415

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Representative Evans:

HB 2675 is thoughtful legislation that would improve the lives of medical marijuana patients in Hawaii.

I support this bill and other bills that seek to improve Hawaii's medical marijuana law.

When HB 2675 is heard before your committee this Friday, please give it your support.

Much aloha, love , and hempiness,

Blair Van Pelt  
8085578591

## **Tommie Suganuma**

---

**From:** Michael Miller [michaelaloha@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 9:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** HB 2675

Michael Miller  
1178 N Kumuwaina Pl  
Hilo, HI 96720-2794

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Representative Evans:

HB 2675 is a good bill that I would like you to support. This bill would create a task force to examine allowing patients and their caregivers to obtain medicine from an alternate source. This would take the guesswork out of obtaining medicine for many patients, allowing them to rest a little easier.

The bill would also increase possession limits from 3 ounces to 14 ounces. This is more in line with what other states allow their patient to possess, like Oregon (24 ounces), Washington state (a 60-day supply) and many places in California.

Please give this bill your full support when it comes up for hearing before your committee this Friday.

Sincerely,

Michael Miller  
8089596480

## **Tommie Suganuma**

---

**From:** Donna Wilson [donna.wilson@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 10:40 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** medical marijuana--stringent qualifications HB 2675

Donna Wilson  
1136 Nakui St.  
Makawo,, HI 96768-9428

LATE TESTIMONY

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Evans:

HB 2675 would raise possession limits from 7 plants/3 ounces to 14 plants/14 ounces, as well as remove the confusing distinction between mature and immature plants.

My experience is my son, age 42, getting Legal medical marijuana card from CA--Riverside County. He abused its use and its use contributed to his hospitalization in a mental hospital for 3 weeks last spring--followed by out patient & now in duo recovery program. I had to fly back to CA w/ this crisis. He thought o.k. to do in his bi-polar mind rationalization as LEGAL.Should be HARD to get--for only legitimate medical purposes.

Sincerely,

Donna Wilson  
808-573-6633

## **Tommie Suganuma**

---

**From:** Karen Pecorelli [kmp711000@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 10:42 AM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** HB 2675

Karen Pecorelli  
616 Maluniu Ave. # B  
Kailua, HI 96734-2168

February 29, 2008

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

The Honorable Cynthia F.W. Evans  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Evans:

HB 2675 would create a medical marijuana task force to examine the feasibility of establishing secure medical marijuana growing facilities for medical marijuana.

It is important to remember that not all patients have green thumbs. Others are too sick to tend a garden. Some just can't find a caregiver to grow for them.

There is no reason that our sick and dying citizens should have to rely on the criminal market for their medicine. Please consider allowing growing facilities to provide patients with an alternate source of medicine.

Sincerely,

Karen Pecorelli