

L A T E

Testimony in support
of
H.B. 2675 HD2 RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA
March 17, 2008
in the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

From

REPRESENTATIVE JOE BERTRAM III

Chair David Y. Ige and Committee Members,

I commend your committee for taking up this timely legislation since Hawaii became the first state to legislatively allow for the medical use of marijuana to qualified patients. The proven benefits of its use have multiplied along with challenges to safe legal access to the medicine.

In its landmark study, the American College of Physicians, who are the second largest organization in one United States after the American Medical Association unequivocally reiterates its medical efficacy in the face of its schedule 1 (no medical use) Federal CSA designation. The ACP also identifies a major obstacle to safe access is our own local police! This is made quite evident by the continued testimony from all police chiefs opposing any improvement in our law.

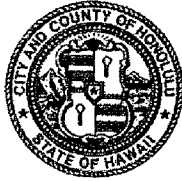
Please pass this measure so that all stake holders can come together in a non confrontational manner to address these challenges together. Also, of at all possible you could add in language removing the mature/immature plant designation (which even the police find difficult) and making the marijuana patients the lowest priority for law enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org

L A T E

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



BOISSE P. CORREA
CHIEF

PAUL D. PUTZULU
MICHAEL D. TUCKER
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KI-TA

March 17, 2008

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2675, H.D. 2, 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. 2, Relating to Medical Marijuana. This bill continues to raise concerns from a law enforcement perspective.

The Honolulu Police Department, while having compassion for those seeking relief from suffering brought on by medical conditions, 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 issues regarding adequate supplies of medical marijuana for patients, construction of growing facilities, and interisland travel related to medical marijuana does not make sense.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Bill No. 2675, H.D. 2, 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

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