

Council Chair
G. Riki Hokama

Vice-Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Council Members
Michelle Anderson
Gladys C. Baisa
Jo Anne Johnson
Bill Kauakea Medeiros
Michael J. Molina
Joseph Pontanilla
Michael P. Victorino




COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

LATE TESTIMONY

March 25, 2008

TO: Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: G. Riki Hokama
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 25, 2008; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HR 49, HD1, REQUESTING THE MAUI COUNTY MAYOR AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS MEASURES REGARDING MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to urge the Mayor and County Council of Maui to develop a Maui County Family Farmer Medical Marijuana Regulation and Revenue Program to tax, regulate, and provide safe access to medical marijuana.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The County does not have the authority under State law to develop and implement the type of program this resolution calls for.
2. Patients in need of medical marijuana reside throughout the State, not just in Maui County. The State should consult with the Departments of Health, Public Safety, Land and Natural Resources, and Agriculture to introduce realistic and effective statewide legislation to help meet the needs of those requiring the use of medical marijuana.
3. Developing the type of program detailed in this resolution is within the jurisdiction of the State, not the counties.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:08legis:08testimony:HR49_HD1_paf08-105b_kmh

Council Chair
G. Riki Hokama

Vice-Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Council Members
Michelle Anderson
Gladys C. Baisa
Jo Anne Johnson
Bill Kauakea Medeiros
Michael J. Molina
Joseph Pontanilla
Michael P. Victorino




COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

LATE TESTIMONY

March 25, 2008

TO: Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: G. Riki Hokama
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 25, 2008; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HCR 49, HD1, REQUESTING THE MAUI COUNTY MAYOR AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS MEASURES REGARDING MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to urge the Mayor and County Council of Maui to develop a Maui County Family Farmer Medical Marijuana Regulation and Revenue Program to tax, regulate, and provide safe access to medical marijuana.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The County does not have the authority under State law to develop and implement the type of program this resolution calls for.
2. Patients in need of medical marijuana reside throughout the State, not just in Maui County. The State should consult with the Departments of Health, Public Safety, Land and Natural Resources, and Agriculture to introduce realistic and effective statewide legislation to help meet the needs of those requiring the use of medical marijuana.
3. Developing the type of program detailed in this resolution is within the jurisdiction of the State, not the counties.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:08legis:08testimony:HCR49_HD1_paf08-105a_kmh

Testimony in support
of
**HCR 49/HR 49 HD1 REQUESTING THE MAUI COUNTY MAYOR AND
COUNTY COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS MEASURES REGARDING
MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

March 25, 2008

in the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

From

REPRESENTATIVE JOE BERTRAM III

Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Blake Oshiro 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 Maui County can establish safe access to Medical Marijuana.

Thank you for your consideration.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PROHIBITION

121 Mystic Avenue, Medford, Massachusetts 02155 - Tele: 781.393.6985 Fax: 781.393.2964 info@leap.cc www.leap.cc

- Home
- For the Media
- Publications
- Multimedia
- Speakers
- Community
- Account
- Web
- Contact Us

Publications > LEAP Items > LEAP's Mission Statement

LEAP's Mission Statement

Founded on March 16, 2002, LEAP is made up of current and former members of law enforcement who believe the existing drug policies have failed in their intended goals of addressing the problems of crime, drug abuse, addiction, juvenile drug use, stopping the flow of illegal drugs into this country and the internal sale and use of illegal drugs. By fighting a war on drugs the government has increased the problems of society and made them far worse. A system of regulation rather than prohibition is a less harmful, more ethical and a more effective public policy.

The mission of LEAP is to reduce the multitude of unintended harmful consequences resulting from fighting the war on drugs and to lessen the incidence of death, disease, crime, and addiction by ultimately ending drug prohibition.

LEAP's goals are:

1. To educate the public, the media, and policy makers, to the failure of current drug policy by presenting a true picture of the history, causes and effects of drug abuse and the crimes related to drug prohibition and
2. To restore the public's respect for law enforcement, which has been greatly diminished by its involvement in imposing drug prohibition.

LEAP's main strategy for accomplishing these goals is to create a constantly enlarging speakers bureau staffed with knowledgeable and articulate former drug-warriors who describe the impact of current drug policies on: police/community relations; the safety of law enforcement officers and suspects; police corruption and misconduct; and the financial and human costs associated with current drug policies.

Dedicated to our departed colleagues who courageously spoke out about the destructive policy of Drug Prohibition



Eleanor Schockett



Gil Puder



Whitman Knapp

John Perry

Ralph Salerno

Bob Owens



Eddie Ellison

Milton Friedman

The logos and trademarks used on this site are the property of their respective owners
We are not responsible for comments posted by our users, as they are the property of the poster

Interactive software released under GNU GPL, Code Credits, Privacy Policy

JUDtestimony

From: Bill [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 8:41 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony For HR 49 - Please support this resolution

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Rep. Tommy Waters

Vice-Chair: Rep. Blake K. Oshiro

3-25-08 at 4:05 pm in Conference Room 325 Position: SUPPORT Number of copies needed for committee: 17

Aloha Representative,

I am a medical marijuana patient from Maui registered with the State of Hawai'i department of Public Safety. I write to you today to urge your support for House Resolution 49, legislation that seeks to improve Hawaii's medicinal cannabis program. The intent of this resolution 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 force our most vulnerable patients, those who do not respond well to standard pharmaceuticals, to be continually forced 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 has recommended and prescribed for me.

Hawaii does not provide for a legal means of supplying marijuana. By recommending patients to form collective and cooperative operations, will allow for individual patients to have their needs met safely and share 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 a few of the issues patients face when growing medical marijuana.

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.

In 2006, the California attorney generals 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.

The initiative process has been difficult in Maui County. Our 2006 petition drive (the

first ever in Maui County) had many bureaucratic impediments. Until the last month of the drive, the Maui County Corporate Counsel maintained that only the five members of the petitioners committee could gather all 8000 required signatures to put the ordinance on the ballot. This year, we have received a limited number of wiki-wiki forms (voter registration forms), and have had great difficulty receiving any information from the County in respect to any help we need (including deadlines).

Mahalo for the Opportunity to testify and urging Maui County to do what is right.

Aloha,

Bill Cox