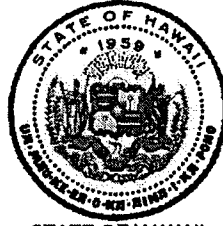


SB 113

SD 1

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Blvd. 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director of
Administration

Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 113 SD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS RESEARCH
by
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Interim Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 AM
State Capitol, Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to comment on the amendments being proposed in Senate Bill 113 SD1. PSD does not support Senate Bill 113 SD1 that establishes a three-year medical marijuana pilot program authorized by PSD's Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED), with the goal of providing a means by which a team of qualified researchers could undertake medical marijuana research on patients in Hawaii.

The amendment to Senate Bill 113 SD1 still does not address the issue that this bill is unnecessary. Section 329-58 (Education and Research) and Section 329-32 (Registration Requirements) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes already provides the laws, rules, and procedures for individuals requesting to do research-using all controlled substances in the State of Hawaii. The existing

procedures and laws are set up to protect the researcher from arrest and licensing sanctions from both State and Federal laws.

Section 329-32(b) states:

"(b) Persons registered by the department of public safety under this chapter to manufacture, distribute, prescribe, dispense, store, or conduct research with controlled substances may possess, manufacture, distribute, prescribe, dispense, store, or conduct research with those substances to the extent authorized by their registration and in conformity with this part."

Section 329-58(c) states:

"329-58(c) The department of public safety may authorize persons engaged in research on the use and effects of controlled substances to withhold the names and other identifying characteristics of individuals who are the subjects of the research. Persons who obtain this authorization are not compelled in any civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceeding to identify the individuals who are subjects of research for which the authorization was obtained.

329-58(d) The department of public safety may authorize the possession and distribution of controlled substances by persons engaged in research. Persons who obtain this authorization are exempt from state prosecution for possession and distribution of controlled substances to the extent of the authorization."

Title 23, Chapter 200, Section 21 of Hawaii's Administrative Rules relating to Production of Controlled Substances Bearing Plants:

"§23-200-21(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in or be associated in any manner with or permit another to engage in the cultivation of controlled

Senate Bill 113 SD1
March 1, 2011
Page 3

substance bearing plants or in the production, manufacturing or processing of controlled substances unless such person holds a currently effective certificate of registration issued by the department.”

The existing procedures and requirements for conducting research with any controlled substances are already defined and accepted in both State and Federal laws. Even if Senate Bill 113 SD1 were to pass as is, all researchers would still have to follow the existing Federal and State laws relating to controlled substances, record keeping, security and unannounced inspections by PSD’s NED and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. For these reasons, PSD requests that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawai'i

March 1, 2011

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 113 SD1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of this measure. The SD1 amendment left blank the number of patients per research study. Usual studies involve 10-30 patients per study.

This bill establishes a 3-year pilot medical cannabis research program in the State to provide a means by which a team of qualified researchers could undertake medical cannabis research involving local qualifying medical cannabis patients.

The state has already recognized the benefits of medical cannabis by the fact that it has legalized its medicinal use. The next step is to provide a platform on which the chemical properties and medicinal benefits of medical cannabis can be studied in a formal peer-reviewed manner. Since the program was established in 2000, aside from a questionnaire administered by the Marijuana Working Group earlier this year, there has been no formal research into the botanical and medical aspects of the plant based medicine that thousands of Hawai'i residents use every day.

From research results currently available, certain conditions respond better to particular strains of cannabis. Patients would benefit from this additional knowledge of which strain would provide them the best relief.

There is currently no legal means, either state or federal, by which researchers can conduct medical cannabis research in Hawai'i. Since cannabis is still a Schedule I substance, it is extremely difficult to get approval from the DEA to conduct research with medical cannabis. Even in the rare instance where such approval is granted, research can only be carried out with cannabis that is grown at the only federally contracted lab at the University of Mississippi. Studying the cannabis strains that are currently being used in Hawaii, not random strains that the DEA controls will most benefit patients in Hawaii.

Board of Directors

Pamela Lichty, M.P.H.
President

Kat Brady
Vice President

Heather Lusk
Treasurer

Katherine Irwin, Ph.D.
Secretary

Michael Kelley, D.Phil.

Richard S. Miller, Prof. of
Law Emer.

Robert Perkinson, Ph.D.

Donald Topping, Ph.D.
Founder 1929-2003

P.O. Box 241042
Honolulu, HI 96824-1042

Phone: (808)-988-4386
Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: info@dpfhi.org
Website: www.dpfhi.org

Institutions, such as UH Manoa, that depend upon federal grants, are unwilling to participate in medical cannabis studies for the **unfounded fear** that they will lose federal funding. In fact, the California state legislature established the Center for Medical Cannabis Research at UC San Diego in 2000.

This bill would enable the legal research of medical cannabis at the state level, thereby providing protection for researchers from attack by the DEA or other federal agencies and establishes a mechanism whereby privately or publicly funded research corporations could become licensed to conduct state approved research projects that must comply with certain research guidelines.

It would enable licensed researchers to obtain cannabis plants so that:

- (1) the chemical properties of different strains can be analyzed under controlled laboratory conditions;
- (2) specific strains of cannabis can be grown to provide study medication for patients with particular illness and;
- (3) certified medical patients can be enrolled in controlled medical trials utilizing locally produced medicine.

Medical cannabis research in Hawaii is further restricted by our own Narcotics Enforcement Division, which requires that all state applications for clinical research also receive DEA approval. Even with a provision for research in §HRS 329-58, this requirement for federal approval perpetuates the DEA's prohibition of cannabis research at the state level and is a questionable requirement by NED.

If a state can legalize the medical use of cannabis, it should be able to legalize its research. Allowing research in Hawai'i would enable better patient care and increase our knowledge about cannabis. Please pass the measure. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 12:11 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: nimo1767@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Petricci
Organization: Friends 4 Justice
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: nimo1767@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

Aloha from the Big Island

Friends for Justice strongly supports SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research which establishes a medical cannabis pilot research program in Hawaii.

The state has already recognized the benefits of medical cannabis by the fact that it has legalized its medicinal use. The next step is to provide a platform on which the chemical properties and medicinal benefits of medical cannabis can be studied in a formal peer-reviewed manner. Since the program was established in 2000, aside from a questionnaire administered by the Marijuana Working Group earlier this year, there has been no formal research into the botanical and medical aspects of the plant based medicine that thousands of Hawai'i residents use every day.

Its needed to ease peoples minds and address any concerns that people may have about cannabis.

From research results currently available, certain conditions respond better to particular strains of cannabis. Patients would benefit from this additional knowledge of which strain would provide them the best relief.

There is currently no legal means, either state or federal, by which researchers can conduct medical cannabis research in Hawai'i.

Since cannabis is still a Schedule I substance, it is extremely difficult to get approval from the DEA to conduct research with medical cannabis. Even in the rare instance where such approval is granted, research can only be carried out with cannabis that is grown at the only federally contracted lab at the University of Mississippi. Studying the cannabis strains that are currently being used in Hawaii, not random strains that the DEA controls will most benefit patients in Hawaii.

Institutions, such as UH Manoa, that depend upon federal grants, are unwilling to participate in medical cannabis studies for the unfounded fear that they will lose federal funding. In fact, California established the Center for Medical Cannabis Research at UC San Diego in 2000.

This bill would enable the legal research of medical cannabis at the state level, thereby providing protection for researchers from attack by the DEA or other federal agencies.

It would also establish mechanism whereby privately or publicly funded research corporations could become licensed to conduct state approved research projects that must comply with certain research guidelines.

It would enable licensed researchers to obtain cannabis plants so that (1) the chemical properties of different strains can be analyzed under controlled laboratory conditions (2) specific strains of cannabis can be grown to provide study medication for patients with particular illness and (3) certified medical patients can be enrolled in controlled medical trials utilizing locally produced medicine.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Clifton S. Otto, M.D.

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

I am testifying today in support of SB 113 SD1.

With nearly 9000 registered medical cannabis patients in the State of Hawaii, there exists a significant need to investigate the effects that medical cannabis is having on our patients who are using this botanical medicine on a daily basis. There is currently no means for assessing how these patients are obtaining their medication, what is the potency and purity of the medicine they are using, which strains are the most helpful for certain conditions, and how this medicine is being administered. Formal research with medical cannabis in Hawaii would allow these and other human toxicological questions to be further explored.

With the number of individual strains of cannabis that have made their way to the Hawaiian islands over the years, it is also important that this research be conducted here in Hawaii on locally available varieties of medical cannabis that patients are using legally for a variety of medical conditions. These strains have been bred to become sustainable in a tropical climate, and will likely demonstrate unique chemical compositions that attribute to their range of clinical effects. Such research is also well suited for Hawaii, where there is a rich heritage of utilizing indigenous medicinal plants.

Currently, the barriers to conducting medical cannabis research exist at several levels. At the federal level, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the federal agency tasked with regulating cannabis and whose official policy is that cannabis has no medical value, has effectively prohibited medical cannabis research by monopolizing the production of research cannabis at a single contracted facility at the University of Mississippi and requiring that all studies only utilize study material from this facility. Furthermore, the DEA requires that all potential studies also receive funding approval from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, even when federal funding is not required, which results in very few studies ever receiving approval and an average wait time of ten years.

Medical cannabis research is further restricted by our own Narcotics Enforcement Division, which requires that all state applications for clinical research also receive DEA approval. Even with a provision for research in HRS 329, this requirement for federal approval perpetuates the DEA's prohibition of cannabis research at the state level.

If a state can legalize the medical use of cannabis, it should be able to legalize its research. One way to do this would be to add an amendment to SB113SD1 or create administrative rules that would only require notifying the DEA about medical cannabis research in those instances where state law has been violated.

Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 10:11 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: friendsforjustice@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaipo Fernandez
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: friendsforjustice@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

I am a medical cannabis patient on the Big Island.

It is important to research which strains or types of cannabis work best for which ailments...and being able to use local plants makes sense (no federal issue). Up to now, it is just word of mouth, we need more and specific data and information.

Please allow professional study of benefits from cannabis.

Kaipo Fernandez
Volcano, HI

electronically submitted by FFJ at my request

From: Walter Hillinger [walter16@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 9:29 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Medical Marijuana

To: Senator David Ige
Senator Michelle Kdiani
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 113 Sd and OR SB 175 SD1

I am writing in strong support for transferring the medical marijuana program from the department of public safety to the Department of Health. I have a daughter in law who was addicted to prescription drugs and went to a detox program to get off her drugs. She started taking medical marijuana for her condition and that relieved her pain.

She has a hard time securing enough medicine now and my hope is that if the department of health administers the program she will have better success in securing her medicine.

Thanking you for your consideration,

Walter Hillinger

From: Robert Bacher [bacher.robert@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:51 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 113

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Robert Bacher

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Without allowing proper research, analysis and development, it is impossible to determine the strength or ratio of THC, CBD, CBN, and other active elements in Medical Cannabis. If strength is known and properly labeled, it is simple arithmetic for patients to determine what dosage is appropriate for them. Analysis of how effective certain cannabinoid ratios (and certain strains) are for various conditions will help to make better recommendations and develop better delivery methods, such as a Hawaiian version of Sativex, which has national or worldwide potential.

Although DPS has said that research as already current allowed, it merely references how it ran their industrial cannabis research program into the ground. The need to develop more effective medicines is too important to leave DPS to continue to sabotage research efforts.

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Clifton S. Otto, M.D.

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

In regards to the number of patients that a research facility would be allowed to enroll:

A single pilot study typically enrolls between 10-30 patients, and usually runs from anywhere from 3-12 months.

It would be a shame to limit a research facility to just one study at a time.

At the current per patient number of plants allowable by Hawaii state law, 30 patients would allow a single research center to grow 210 plants.

I would recommend this as a minimum starting point, with no restriction on the number of studies that a research facility can run at any given time, as long as the total number of patients does not exceed this number.

Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: friendsforjustice@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Ruggles
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: friendsforjustice@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

I don't have e-mail, and asked Friends for Justice to send this...

I am a Big Island resident and medical marijuana patient.

It is important to do research on why marijuana works and what works for which illness. Despite Federal schedule 1, 15 states recognize marijuana as medicine. If the Federal government won't allow research nationally, then do it locally. the 10 amendment protects (or should protect) the medical marijuana program and it should protect research that is done here, within the state of Hawaii.

Mike Ruggles
Mt. View, HI

(

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 8:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: cheryl@solights.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: cheryl nelson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cheryl@solights.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

Comments:

From: Scott Foster [fosters005@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 7:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony SUPPORTING SB113, SD 1 "Relating to Medical Cannabis Research"

FROM:
SCOTT FOSTER
3050 Kahaloa Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-1541
808-988-0555
fosters005@hawaii.rr.com

February 27, 2011

TO:
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony for Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

SUPPORT SB113, SD 1 "Relating to Medical Cannabis Research"

I am writing in strong support of SB113, SD1 "Relating to Medical Cannabis Research" which establishes a medical cannabis pilot research program in Hawaii. The state has already recognized the benefits of medical cannabis by the fact that it has legalized its medicinal use. The next step is to provide a platform on which the chemical properties and medicinal benefits of medical cannabis can be studied in a formal peer-reviewed manner. Since the program was established in 2000, aside from a questionnaire administered by the Marijuana Working Group earlier this year, there has been no formal research into the botanical and medical aspects of the plant based medicine that thousands of Hawai'i residents use every day.

From research results currently available, we know that certain conditions respond better to particular strains of cannabis and patients would benefit from this additional knowledge of which strain would provide them the best relief. Unfortunately, there is currently no legal means, either state or federal, by which researchers can conduct medical cannabis research in Hawai'i. Because cannabis remains a Schedule I substance, it is extremely difficult to get approval from the DEA to conduct research with medical cannabis. Even in the rare instance where such approval is granted, research can only be carried out with cannabis that is grown at the only federally contracted lab at the University of Mississippi. Studying the cannabis strains that are currently being used in Hawaii, not random strains that the DEA controls will most benefit patients in Hawaii.

Institutions, such as UH Manoa, that depend upon federal grants, are unwilling to participate in medical cannabis studies for the unfounded fear that they will lose federal funding. In fact, California established the Center for Medical Cannabis Research at UC San Diego in 2000. This bill would enable the legal research of medical cannabis at the state level, thereby providing protection for researchers from attack by the DEA or other federal agencies.

SB113, SD 1 would also establish a mechanism whereby privately or publicly funded research corporations could become licensed to conduct state approved research projects that must comply with certain research

guidelines. It would also enable licensed researchers to obtain cannabis plants so that (1) the chemical properties of different strains can be analyzed under controlled laboratory conditions (2) specific strains of cannabis can be grown to provide study medication for patients with particular illness and (3) certified medical patients can be enrolled in controlled medical trials utilizing locally produced medicine.

Sincerely,
/s/
Scott Foster

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 7:18 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mark@solights.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Nelson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mark@solights.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:22 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: tcburnett@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Thomas C. Burnett
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tcburnett@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

It is becoming more and more obvious that the non-psychotropic ingredients in cannabis have demonstrably positive effects for a plethora of disease vectors.

Of course that's not why the pro-marijuana group wants it legalized, but that isn't the point. It is certainly no more dangerous as a relaxant than alcohol or diazepam - and it is a naturally occurring substance. While I happen to think that inhaling the incomplete products of combustion of ANY substance is irrational, I also believe that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is the foundation of our country.

Legislators must learn that their job is not to create more laws and thus more criminals - but to determine which laws make no sense and remove them. Your job is to provide us with MORE freedom - not less. When the money tree in Washington gets turned off, we'll have to make do with what we have and you will all have to account for your actions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:32 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: buzzzed@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandy Webb
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: buzzzed@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

More research is needed. It cannot be done without a change. Much is needed to improve use and care of patients in the Medical Cannabis program, this is just one. We must start somewhere.

From: sara steiner [saralegal@live.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:15 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Re: SB 113 SD1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Sara Steiner
Po-Box 1965
Pahoa, HI 96778

Re: SB 113 SD1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 am., Room 211

Position: Strong Support

Aloha from the Big Island,

We desperately need an established research plan here in Hawaii. Because the "compassionate" use of medical marijuana has been allowed here since the year 2000, and we have now wasted 11 years that could have been producing life-saving research for many different diseases and ailments. There is no denying the facts that cannabis has wonderful medical and therapeutic value. It is time for Hawaii to take the next step and study the effects of Hawaiian strains of cannabis on registered patients here in Hawaii.

With the approval of this bill, doctors and researchers can begin working on important life-giving and life-saving methods, without the constant threat of the federal government hanging over their heads. The State can do this, the State must do this for the good it will bring to our people and the economy.

Sincerely,

Sara Steiner
936-9546

From: chris werner [christopherallenwerner@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:27 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Chris Werner

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

I am writing in strong support of SB 113 SD1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research which establishes a medical cannabis pilot research program in Hawaii.

There is currently no legal means, either state or federal, by which researchers can conduct medical cannabis research in Hawai'i.

From research results currently available, certain conditions respond better to particular strains of cannabis. Patients would benefit from this additional knowledge of which strain would provide them the best relief.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:59 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: konaliberty@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Liberty
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: konaliberty@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
I support SB113.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:56 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: konaliberty@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Liberty
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: konaliberty@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
I am in support of SB 113.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bmurphy420@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Brian Murphy
Organization: MCCFDIA
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bmurphy420@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Brian Murphy Director MCCFDIA

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research OR SB 175 SD1 Relating to Health
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

TESTIMONY:
SB 175 SD1 Relating to Health
Transfers department jurisdiction of the medical marijuana laws from the department of public safety to the department of health.

I am writing in strong support of SB 175 SD1 which transfers the medical marijuana program to the Department of Health.

NED has undermined the program from day 1! The record will show that NED has a finical interest keeping all marijuana illegal!

1. AMENDMENTS

as other medical marijuana programs have 24/7 verification and the responsibilities are not split between 2 agencies. It's not that difficult to set up.

2.Moving the administration of the program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health was one of the top priorities recommended last year by the Medical Cannabis Working Group.

·3. An important proposal moves the program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health. The medical marijuana program should be in a department that has the experience of working with groups of patients and health programs. Easily accessible and easily understandable information on how the program works and outreach for the program are

not currently available; this work would more likely be accomplished by a department with the experience and background of implementing other health programs.

·4. Current patients and physicians have expressed concern about dealing with a narcotics enforcement agency. The original intent of the law was to create a public health program out of concern for patients with serious or chronic illnesses.

·5. There is also general concern about the records being kept in a law enforcement agency and who may also have access to them. I believe patients would have more confidence in a health agency as they handle other sensitive and private information about patients.

·6. In a serious breach of privacy, in June 2008, the Department of Public Safety released the entire list of the then 4,000 patients, their addresses, the location of their marijuana plants, license information, and the names of their physicians to Peter Sur, reporter for the /Hawaii Tribune-Herald/.

·7. Another good reason to move the program is that the Department of Health has the responsibility of considering new medical conditions that would qualify for the program. It seems reasonable that a single agency should be responsible for all aspects of the program.

Mahalo

for your time

BMurphy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:21 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bmurphy420@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Brian Murphy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bmurphy420@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Brian Murphy Director MCCFDIA

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research OR SB Relating to Health
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Research is needed!

From: Pam-and-or-Mike [randomskypie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 9:51 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Bill # SBII3 SDI

To: Senator David Ige-Chair
Senator Michelle Kidoni-Vice Chair & member of Committee on Ways & Means

I am writing to support the Bill SDII3 SDI-Medical Cannabis Research--- it is only smart to be able to research and study a medicine to see how and why it can help with different ailments. If you are going to let a medicine into the market place, it is wise to STUDY this. Again, the main challenge here is the belief of most in the govt. is that cannabis is NOT a medicine. But I have purchased a DVD'-What if Cannabis cured Cancer'- put together by 6 physicians that brought out very compelling facts and research that may prove that cannabis has a very positive effect on our bodies & diseases. Why not find out the truth? Let this research go forward-learn new concepts.. this is how great discoveries are made! There are many endocannabinoid receptors all in our bodies which is very compelling evidence that the great Creator knew something that we NEED to know.. so let's find out what this is!!!!!!

Thank you for your time, Pam Brewer-Fink

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 9:41 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mattrifkin28@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Rifkin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mattrifkin28@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

I am a medical cannabis patient in Hawaii County.

Up to now the DEA and NIDA only approve research on cannabis if it is looking for negative side effects...it is time to allow for research on all the possible BENEFITS of cannabis...

this will help patients, and could lead to economic opportunities and jobs

From: Will Navran [willsilver@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 12:11 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: FW: SB 113 SD March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

To: Senator David Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

I strongly support creating a medical marijuana research program. Myself and other patients I know prefer non-smokable preparations which do not get the patient "high". Many patients like the medical effect but not the "high". The tincture preparations have the lowest psychoactive effect and certain strains relieve certain conditions better than others. Without research it makes determining these factors nearly impossible for the individual patient.

Mahalo, Will Navran

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

RE: SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

I am writing in strong support of SB 113 SD1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research which establishes a medical cannabis pilot research program in Hawai'i.

I have travelled to 3 different countries and used medical marijuana to treat my Multiple Sclerosis and other medical problems for over a dozen years. My personal experience indicates that specific strains affect me in different ways. If we could begin studying marijuana and its components, we could make the medical marijuana program much more effective. A research program would provide the foundation of data that examines which chemical properties and medicinal benefits of medical cannabis can be studied formally. This bill would enable licensed researchers to obtain cannabis plants so that (1) the chemical properties of different strains can be analyzed under controlled laboratory conditions (2) specific strains of cannabis can be grown to provide study medication for patients with particular illness and (3) certified medical patients can be enrolled in controlled medical trials utilizing locally produced medicine.

For example, when my optical neuritis flairs up, I start looking for some strain that is considered a "Sativa". I know that certain conditions respond better to particular strains of cannabis. Other patients would benefit from this additional knowledge of which strain would provide them the best relief. Studying the cannabis strains that are currently being used in Hawaii, not random strains that the DEA controls will most benefit patients in Hawai'i.

There is currently no legal means, either state or federal, by which researchers can conduct medical cannabis research in Hawai'i and this bill would enable the legal research of medical cannabis at the state level, thereby providing protection for researchers from attack by the DEA or other federal agencies. If you approve research, UH Manoa, that depend upon federal grants can participate in establishing a Center for Medical Cannabis Research similar to what was started at UC San Diego in 2000.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Teri Heede

92-994 Kanehoa Loop
Kapolei, HI 96707
(home) 672-6312

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: paulminar@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Minar
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: paulminar@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
STRONG SUPPORT
How can anyone be against research?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: wh7xs@arrl.net
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daryl Scott
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wh7xs@arrl.net
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

I am writing in strong support of SB 175 SD1 which transfers the medical marijuana program to the Department of Health.

One of the amendments calls for the Dept. of Public Safety "to continue to maintain a verification process to confirm registration that is accessible 24/7 to the DOH." All responsibilities should go to DOH, as other medical marijuana programs have 24/7 verification and the responsibilities are not split between 2 agencies. It's not that difficult to set up. California has been doing it for years, MediCann is one of California's largest most organized programs. Anyone can check a patients card within 15 mins. or less via phone, fax, or internet so it's very convenient, safe, very clear as to who is a patient & who isn't. Moving the administration of the program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health was one of the top priorities recommended last year by the Medical Cannabis Working Group. The medical marijuana program should be in a department that has the experience of working with groups of patients and health programs. Easily accessible and easily understandable information on how the program works and outreach for the program are not currently available; this work would more likely be accomplished by a department with the experience and background of implementing other health programs.

By placing the program in the Department of Public Safety, a law enforcement approach rather than a public health approach is being used to administer the program. Current patients and physicians have expressed concern about dealing with a narcotics enforcement agency. The original intent of the law was to create a public health program out of concern for patients with serious or chronic illnesses.

There is also general concern about the records being kept in a law enforcement agency and who may also have access to them. I believe patients would have more confidence in a health agency as they handle other sensitive and private information about patients. In a serious breach of privacy, in June 2008, the Department of Public Safety released the entire list of the then 4,000 patients, their addresses, the location of their marijuana plants, license information, and the names of their physicians to Peter Sur, reporter for the /Hawaii Tribune-Herald/.

Another good reason to move the program is that the Department of Health has the responsibility of considering new medical conditions that would qualify for the program. It seems reasonable that a single agency should be responsible for all aspects of the program. This never should have been set up with the NED, it has mismanaged the program since it's inception, 90+ days to get your card after seeing your doctor is ridiculous. If your doctor told you "You have cancer, but I can't give you any medicine for at least 3

months". You could be dead by then, & would never stand for that kind of treatment, yet that's exactly what happens here in Hawaii for medical marijuana patients.

J

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: saralegal@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sara Steiner submitting for Barbara Devaki Lang
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: saralegal@live.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
I am writing in support of Senate Bill 113 to establish a medical marijuana research program.
I think this will be very helpful for the medical marijuana patients in Hawaii.
Thank You.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:28 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: saralegal@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sara Steiner for George Greywolf Klare
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: saralegal@live.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
Position: Strong Support

Yes, move the enforcing away from the offending agency.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: stuart@IsseiProductions.com
Subject: Testimony for SB113 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB113

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stuart Hirotsu
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: stuart@IsseiProductions.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
aloha

Please support SB113 and help put an end to the old lies and propoganda that haunt medical cannabis.

Legitimate research into the medical efficiency and characteristics of cannabis can only help us as we explore many medical questions that have not been answered.

mahalo

From: Peter Ehrhorn [ehrhornp001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 9:33 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: I strongly support Support Medical Cannabis and health!

Feb. 28, 2011

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Peter Ehrhorn
254 Kaha St.
Kailua Hawaii

Re: RE: "SB 175 SD 1 Relating to Health" OR "SB 113 SD 1 Relating to Medical Cannabis Research"

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., Room 211

Position: Strong Support

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SB 175 SD1, a bill which transfers the medical marijuana program to the Department of Health.

Moving the administration of the program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health was one of the top priorities recommended last year by the Medical Cannabis Working Group. The program should be moved from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health. The medical marijuana program should be in a department that has the experience of working with groups of patients and health programs. Easily accessible and easily understandable information on how the program works and outreach for the program are not currently available in the department of public safety. This work would more likely be accomplished by a department with the experience and background of implementing other health programs.

The use of a marijuana should be a medical issue and not a legal issue. Please transfer the program to the department of health. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Peter Ehrhorn
ehrhornp001@hawaii.rr.com