
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 4:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: myberney@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1460 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1460

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Myron H Berney
Organization: Natural Cancer Wellness Foundation
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: myberney@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

LATE

Update on the Marijuana Laws

Like in Baseball, Right now you all are caught in a “squeeze play” and the clock is ticking.

I am not 100% clear on the estimates of marijuana use in Hawaii or in the various local districts, it may be 30% or 50% or more in various neighborhoods. On the Big Island the voters have “Adult personal use” to grow up to 26 Marijuana plants. This was passed by a majority of voters on the Big Island establishing the lowest level of law enforcement.

Estimates of marijuana use in the local population exceed 50% in some local districts. Each one of these voters wants to live in peace; not a one wants to be live in fear of the Government. They don't want to pay any fines, or be threatened with jail. These people are voters. These voters are your constituents.

Squeeze from the voters that is #1 and #2 Squeeze from Obama...

DPS is supposed to update the Legislature on the Federal Drug Policy. Obama has been moving consistently as quickly as possible to Normalize the Marijuana Laws.

Obama has told the Justice Department to back off of Doctors prescribing Medical Marijuana; the Federal Government will not prosecute medical marijuana cases.

Obama has told the VA hospital system that Medical Marijuana use is not to be considered a drug offense in the VA system, that VA patients can use Medical Marijuana without penalty.

Obama wants to Normalize the Marijuana Laws to reduce cross border crimes with Mexico.

Obama supports medical marijuana as demonstrated by:

1. Obama has called off the Justice Department concerning Medical Marijuana prosecution; The Justice Department will not go after doctors prescribing medical marijuana.
2. Obama has OKed the use of medical marijuana within the VA hospital system.

The net effect is tell the Supreme Court that the Federal Government has no interest or stake, no compelling State interest or need in restricting medical marijuana.

Senators, the only thing DPS has been able to stand on has been that since Marijuana is illegal now the Legislature shouldn't change the law. That goes against the duty of the Legislature and the purpose of public hearings.

There never has been any scientific, medical or social basis put forth that supports any of the Marijuana Laws. It was just a 1939 pack of lies confusing the effects of marijuana use with the documented medical and social effects of alcohol.

The Buddha never had any vow against marijuana only against alcohol. Nor did Jesus, Moses or Mohammad ever say anything bad about marijuana. God said, "It was Good." on the third day of

Genesis.

You have never been able to find any compelling State need for any of the marijuana laws.

Squeeze from the Federal Courts, Religious Use, #3....

We also have a case pending in Federal Court on the Religious Use of Marijuana which has been legal in the State of Hawaii for many years. This case will be heard soon. This gentleman has won before on this same issue. There is a very high probability that the courts will legalize the Religious Use of Marijuana in the very near future since all kinds of psychedelics are authorized under this Federal Constitutional policy.

The Courts will legalize the medical and religious use of marijuana as the people have done on the Big Island and in 14 of the various States including Hawaii.

The time for ignoring the harm coming from the marijuana laws has passed.

What percentage does DPS find concerning marijuana use, 20%, 40%, 50% or more????
Not a one of these people, these voters, these citizens want any problems concerning their use of this God Given Herbal Medicine that has been used for over 5,000 years.

Cannabis is one of the most important anti stress regulators for every cell, tissue and organ of the body. Cannabis is anti-aging and extends longevity. Cannabis represents a whole new class of drugs and medicines actively being developed by the Big Pharma.

Even the recreational use of Marijuana has beneficial herbal and medical wellness results. Medical Marijuana is not just for chronic debilitating diseases or for the terminally ill. The recreational use of Marijuana has positive anti-aging and anti-stress properties and action. Contrary to alcohol and hard drug abuse, Marijuana has positive social benefits. Believe it or not, Marijuana also helps control diabetes! All marijuana use is medical including the recreational use.

What is your problem with the Truth about Herbal Medicine and Medical Marijuana Cannabis in particular?

Stop the Civil War directed against Natural Health Care
Stop the Civil War, the Government actions that support Drug cartels and Drug crimes?
Normalize the marijuana laws to be similar to or less restrictive in relation to tobacco and alcohol.

The social effect and economic effect of the Marijuana Laws is worse for society that the herbal medicine which is actually very good medicine, non addicting, non toxic, and only as habit forming as a good nights sleep or a loving hug.

#4, the clock is ticking...

You all are caught in a squeeze play like in Baseball except you getting squeezed from three directions and the clock is ticking making it 4 way squeeze and no time to loose.

Obama is normalizing the marijuana laws on a Federal Level essentially legalizing Medical Marijuana with Zero action by Justice Department coupled with no penalty within the VA medical system.

The Federal Courts will be legalizing the Religious Use of Marijuana which will apply to all the major religions.

A large percentage of voters smoke pot and don't want any Marijuana Laws at all.

The vast majority of people really know that Marijuana isn't all that bad; the laws simply don't fit.

The clock is ticking and the State isn't prepared for the new day while Legislature is in denial about the reality on the ground. Stuck and Stubborn won't work when the courts change the law.

The Legislature is falling behind on their own timetable. Fortunately, the Legislature can set aside some of these restrictions should they see the need. Don't be stuck in denial about these issues. Act now; don't be caught short.

Act now to Normalize the Marijuana Laws.

Dr. Myron Berney, ND LAc.

LATE



Medicine Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
Natural Cancer Wellness Foundation
Dr. Myron Berney, ND LAc
808-392-3366



SB 1460 SD1 Support

Update on the Marijuana Laws

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Act now to Normalize the Marijuana Laws.

Dr. Myron Berney, ND LAc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:26 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: weasels@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1460 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1460

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gen Griffin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: weasels@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: georgiaroots@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1460 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1460

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Georgia Pinsky
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: georgiaroots@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

Please recognize that this action will allow us to save money, and save resources to deal with REAL criminals who jeopardize the good and beautiful in our island communities.



LATE

**Testimony on SB 1460 Relating to Marijuana Decriminalization
Submitted on February 25, 2011
To the Hawaii Senate Ways and Means Committee
By Calvina Fay, Executive Director, Save Our Society From Drugs**

Dear Committee Members:

We respectfully request that this testimony, on behalf of Save Our Society From Drugs, a national drug policy organization with members in the state of Hawaii, be included in the hearing that is scheduled for February 25, 2011 pertaining to SB 1460.

Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.) has over ten years of experience in monitoring and making policy recommendations on drug policy issues including those pertaining to marijuana legalization. S.O.S. takes a comprehensive approach to promote sound drug policy that includes education, prevention, abstinence-based treatment, scientific research, and community awareness. Our members include doctors, researchers, law enforcement officials, business leaders, lawyers, and parents, just to name a few.

We have analyzed this bill and believe that this legislation will have significant negative impact on the state of Hawaii. Please take this opportunity to review our analysis of SB 1460.

Proponents of marijuana decriminalization argue that it is too costly for the state to continue to lock-up defendants for "simple" marijuana possession. The idea that Hawaii's correctional facilities are overburdened with defendants whose sole crime was the possession of a few joints is simply not true. According to a 2007 report cited within SB 1460, *The Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization and Legalization for Hawaii*, less than 2% of all arrests in Hawaii between the years of 1997 and 2004 were for marijuana possession. The report is unclear if the less than 2% arrests were for felony or misdemeanor possession of marijuana. It does however report that of the 2% arrested approximately 25% were convicted. Of the 25%, while we do not know how many of these individuals were in possession of less than an ounce, it is most certain that for many the conviction is a reflection of their past criminal involvement or the charge represents a plea bargain from a trafficking or intent to sell arrest. If possession of marijuana represents such a small percentage of defendants currently in Hawaii's correctional facilities, surely decriminalizing the possession of up to an ounce of marijuana would not result in significant savings to the state.

SB 1460 is more than a bill to decriminalize adult possession of up to an ounce of marijuana; it deletes reporting requirements by the Board of Education for students possessing one ounce or less of marijuana. Now is not the time for Hawaii to take a hands off approach to adolescent marijuana use. According the *2010 Monitoring the Future Survey*, there was a significant increase in daily marijuana use in 8th, 10th and 12th graders. Non-reporting for student possession of marijuana takes away all efforts at early intervention. Without reporting, assessments and intervention may not be available,

potentially trapping Hawaii's youth in the cycle of addiction, especially for our most disadvantaged youth who could not afford treatment otherwise.

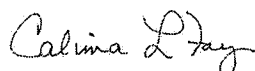
One must consider the amount of marijuana being deemed under this bill as small enough to warrant only a civil penalty. It is estimated that an ounce of marijuana can roll approximately 60-120 joints. Depending on the quality, the street price for an ounce of marijuana ranges from \$225-\$400. Adopting a policy of issuing a \$100 ticket for possession of this amount of marijuana would just be the price of doing business for dealers who would learn to carry smaller amounts on them in hopes of a "slap on the wrist" before returning to the streets restocked.

SB 1460 excludes possession of marijuana from the jurisdiction of Hawaii's parole and probation authorities to require paroled prisoners and probationers to undergo and complete substance abuse treatment. Parole and probation are designed to rehabilitate offenders to be productive members of the community. Allowing someone who is already part of the criminal justice system to continue to exhibit criminal behaviors without intervention and sanctions undermines all attempts at rehabilitation. Removing sanctions for behaviors related to continued substance abuse creates a revolving door policy that will surely increase criminal justice costs and strain resources.

Finally, I would like to comment on marijuana as a gateway drug. Certainly, no one is saying that everyone who smokes marijuana will eventually turn to harder drugs, but there is a correlation between the use of marijuana and an individual's tendency to progress to other illicit drugs. In fact, the RAND Drug Policy Research Center Study, often cited by the pro-drug lobby as a study refuting marijuana as a gateway drug, finds that there is a high incidence of progression from marijuana to heroin and cocaine and that the younger you are when you first use marijuana, the more likely you are to end up using cocaine and heroin.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue. We would be happy to provide you with additional information or discuss this issue further with you, if you so desire. Please reject SB 1460!

Sincerely,



Calvina Fay
Executive Director
Save Our Society From Drugs
5999 Central Ave., Suite 301
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
www.saveoursociety.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 9:50 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: johnhayeser@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1460 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1460

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Hayes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: johnhayeser@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/25/2011

Comments:

To whom it may concern, Please pass SB1460 as it is compassionate in allowing people with blue cards who are unable to grow this safe medicine to obtain it legally.

Sincerely, John Hayes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 9:51 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: johnhayeser@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1460 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1460

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Hayes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: johnhayeser@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/25/2011

Comments:

To whom it may concern, Please pass SB1460 as it is compassionate in allowing people with blue cards who are unable to grow this safe medicine to obtain it legally.

Sincerely, John Hayes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 10:55 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: tzsantana@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1460 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1460

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tracy Santana
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tzsantana@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/25/2011

Comments: