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THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2012

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Measure: SB 2820

Position: Support

Testimony: West O`ahu Hope for a Cure Foundation, Inc.

Joseph B. Rattner O.D., MPH, Csac - Founder and CEO

Aloha Senator Will Espero, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I apologize for the tardiness of this Testimony. I did not realize it even existed until this morning, while searching for another Bill. I wanted to show my **STRONG SUPPORT** for **SB 2820**.

As a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, in three States now, for more than 20 yrs, (in HI, for 10), I can't stress more how this Collaboration of sorts between the Public Safety Department and the Department of Health is a move that I have been waiting for the Legislature's of past to accomplish!

Finally making 'equal', the ideologies of both these Depts., is imperative for many of our State's present Programs to run properly. Just as an example, the PSD's Mission and attentiveness towards Medical Cannabis Patients, should now coincide with how the DOH's treatment of Patients with a Chronic, Debilitating Disease, and ONLY Patients determined as such, not be persecuted by the PSD, for any reason they choose.

Why? Because Hawai'i is the only State that made the decision to allow Medical Cannabis be grown by our People, for our People (Individually).

Over the past five yrs, I have helped author much Legislation to tighten up the Medical Cannabis Laws, but the last Administration was so against it, that even an Over ride didn't prevent Governor Lingle from stopping a practically unanimously voted on Bill to become a Task Force, was pushed into becoming a Working Group. All because she didn't want to cooperate by naming appointees that would be placed upon the Administration to fill.

I am using MM, as just one example of how without this amendment to present Statute, will make sure that the attitudes and intent of these two Depts., will be the same as what the Legislature and the Administration together, want for a better Hawai'i for all of us.

For this and many other reasons, on behalf of the many Clients and myself, that I serve in my Organization, WOHFAC, Inc., I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2820!

Mahalo, for giving me the opportunity to testify,

Joseph B. Rattner O.D., MPH, Csac
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