

**LATE**

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

Representative Sharon Har, Vice-Chair

From: Angela Breene

RE: HB 667, HD 1 – Relating to Medical Marijuana

Hearing: Thursday, February 28, 2013, 2 pm, Room 325

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of **HB 667 HD 1** which improves the effectiveness of our state's medical marijuana program.

In 2012 I became a registered medical cannabis patient in Hawaii. I'm a college educated, two-job-working, law-abiding, tax paying citizen and have never had any run-ins with law enforcement other than the occasional speeding ticket. We Medical Marijuana patients and caregivers are lawful, peaceful, contributing members of society who will be greatly helped by updating and improving Hawaii's Medical Marijuana program - which has seen no improvements in 13 years of existence.

My experience with difficult registration, processing time and longer processing time for change of address has shown me that it is very difficult to comply with our current outdated and convoluted Medical Marijuana system. Even though dispensaries will hopefully be made legal, it may be some time before patients like myself can benefit from their services. Also, many patients, such as those undergoing chemotherapy, have debilitating pain, or suffer from immediate symptoms, need medicine immediately, and this bill corrects that portion of the current law.

**HB 667** fixes the following problems with the current program:

- Removes identifying information like our addresses from patient/caregiver registration cards. If our wallets get stolen with the MM card inside, it's very likely that thieves will come to our home to rob us of our medicine.
- Our medical privacy is maintained by Physicians not having to disclose the specific medical condition of their qualifying patients to the controlling state Department but just that the patient qualifies for use of medical marijuana
- Increases the amount that qualifying patients and caregivers are allowed to 7 mature or immature marijuana plants and 5 ounces of usable marijuana (up from 3). I would like to see this amended to increase to 10 as originally written in the bill. This is especially needed for those of us who do not smoke our medicine, but use edible forms or vaporizers. These are healthier forms of

ingestion but require more raw plant material. Also, growing plants is hard work and requires time, space, and physical activity! Crop failure is a reality due to pests, disease, etc.

- Allows registered patients and caregivers to provide usable marijuana or any part of the marijuana plant to any other qualifying patient or caregiver as long as no money is exchanged and that the total amount of marijuana possessed by the recipient does not exceed the “adequate supply” permitted by law. - This enables us to help each other by sharing seeds and clones to start plants just like any other farmer, gardener, etc., as well as enabling sick patients in need to get medicine as soon as possible.
- Protects and encourages caregivers. Caregivers are needed for patients who are not physically capable of growing plants or do not have appropriate areas to grow plants (i.e. federal housing, urban, susceptible to thieves). Caregivers are difficult to find and allowing them to care for additional patients improves patient access to needed medicine. HB667 increases the number of patients per caregiver from 1:1 to 3:1. It also allows reimbursement for costs not including sale of marijuana, but including growing supplies, time and transport, and protects caregivers from being targeted by law enforcement in their legal activities.

These updates to Hawaii’s medical marijuana program are sorely needed. I urge you to improve the lives of many Hawaii residents by passing [HB667](#).

Sincerely,

Angela Breene  
[angelavideotron@gmail.com](mailto:angelavideotron@gmail.com)  
Haleiwa, HI 96712