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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HCR48, HD1

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATED STATEWIDE DISPENSARY SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Judiciary

Friday, March 28, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee, thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.C.R. No. 48, H.D. 1, Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Develop Recommendations for the Establishment of a Regulated Statewide Dispensary System for Medical Marijuana.

The purpose of this measure is to, among other things:

- (1) Request the Department of Health to convene a Medical Marijuana Dispensary System Task Force (Task Force) to develop recommendations to establish a regulated statewide medical marijuana dispensary system to provide safe and legal access for qualified patients to medical marijuana;
- (2) Place the Task Force within the Department of Health for administrative purposes and request that it make recommendations and propose legislation on the design and structure of a regulated statewide dispensary system for medical marijuana;
- (3) Request that the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau), no later than September 1, 2014, complete and submit to the task force an updated and

revised version of its 2009 report, "Access, Distribution, and Security Components of State Medical Marijuana Programs," which is to include an update of the policies and procedures for access, distribution, security, regulation of dispensaries, and other relevant issues related to the growing and dispensing of medical cannabis in all states that have a medical marijuana program;

- (4) After completion and presentation of the Bureau's report to the Task Force, request that the Task Force hold at least one public hearing to receive public input on the updated report; and
- (6) Request the Task Force to submit a report of the study to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015.

The Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on this measure, but believes that the services requested under this measure, as currently drafted, are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay Furfaro, Chair
Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Gary L. Hooser
Ross Kagawa
Mel Rapozo
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk
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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 27, 2014

**TESTIMONY OF TIM BYNUM
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**HCR 48, HD 1 AND HR 29, REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE
TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGULATED STATEWIDE DISPENSARY SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

**Senate Joint Committee on Judiciary and
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

**Friday, March 28, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony supporting the intent of HCR 48, HD 1 and HR 29, which requests the establishment of a task force to develop recommendations for establishing a Statewide dispensary system for medical marijuana. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

I support the intent of these Resolutions as it is a step forward in addressing an issue that will have considerable impacts to that State of Hawai'i. However, I strongly encourage the Committee to amend these measures, to include a representative from each County in the list of task force representatives. It is my understanding that there is an impression that the Counties may be responsible for managing the dispensary systems. If this is the case, more so, County representation should be included in all preliminary discussions.

For the reasons stated above, I ask this Committee to amend this measure to include County representation. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

TIM BYNUM
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:dmc

- cc: Hawai'i Council of Mayor's
- Hawai'i County Council
- Honolulu City Council
- Maui County Council
- Kaua'i County Council
- Alfred B. Castillo, Jr., County Attorney

HCR48

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Bacher	Hawaiian Standard & Green Futures	Support	No

Comments: If you agree that Cannabis is a safer more effective medicine for some, then patients should be allowed to have safe access to it instead of being referred to the feed the black market. If you feel Cannabis might be detrimental, then you have a responsibility to regulate, license, and test Cannabis and treat patients in need with the respect they deserve, by properly labeling their medicine with (1.) the Percentage of Cannabinoids such as THC, CBD, CBG and others present in that particular batch of that particular strain, (2.) the average serving size per 50 lbs of bodyweight, and (3.) the average milligrams of Cannabinoids per that average serving size. This information, which is under current state law is extremely difficult to discover, is important for patients to be informed as to what they are getting and to help determine what works for them and also what does not.

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

SUPPORT HCR 48 HD1/HR29 HD1

Task Force on Medical Marijuana Dispensary System

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Har and Kawakami and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HCR 48, HD1/HR 29, HD1 requests the convening of a task force to develop recommendations for the establishment of a regulated statewide dispensary system for medical marijuana.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure that respects the spirit and intent of Act 228 of 2000 – to relieve the suffering of Hawai'i's sick and dying citizens.

Hawai'i's law is silent on how a patient can obtain medical marijuana after receiving a recommendation from a doctor. Sending sick people to the black market to relieve their pain and suffering is mean-spirited and controverts the compassion that was the impetus for this law.

Twenty states and Washington D.C. have medical marijuana laws and thirteen have regulated dispensary systems while several other states are in the process of implementing laws for the establishment of dispensaries for medical marijuana.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta's pronouncement that he has been wrong about marijuana is widely known. When he saw the change in Charlotte Figge (the little girl suffering from uncontrollable seizures) and the effects of marijuana on calming those seizures, he investigated further and became convinced that this medicine was safe and effective.

A system of regulated dispensaries would help patients find the strain of marijuana that would be most effective in treating their illness/ailment.

Marijuana makes chemical contact with human bodies through cannabinoids, which are chemical compounds in marijuana (cannabis). The human body also creates cannabinoids. The body creates cannabinoids on-demand, such as when they are produced to serve as neuroprotectants when the brain's nerve cells begin to fire too much, as in the case of stress, seizures or an impact to the brain.

Our bodies also have cannabinoid receptors. Together, the cannabinoids and their receptors make up the human cannabinoid system.

Just as there was a time when we didn't know we had immune systems or hormonal systems, until 1988 we didn't know that we had cannabinoid systems.

The human body produces and utilizes its own cannabinoids, but the body can also utilize cannabinoids from external sources. One source of exogenous cannabinoids is marijuana, or to use marijuana's botanical name, cannabis. Because these cannabinoids are plant-based, they would be considered phytocannabinoids. Phytocannabinoids from marijuana fit nicely into human cannabinoid receptors. Thus, the cannabinoids from the cannabis plant can be utilized by the human cannabinoid system.

In a QMark research poll released in January 2014, regulated dispensaries for medical marijuana are a recognized patient need supported by 85% of voters in the state. Regulated dispensaries are a much better solution than expecting our sick and dying people to suffer or break the law to get the medicine their doctor recommends.

In the Hawaiian community, I have been told that kupuna are concerned about how to get their medicine without criminalizing their `ohana. Please support Hawai'i's sick and dying people by establishing a task force to develop a regulated system of dispensaries.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



House Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2014

2:00 PM

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Strong Support – HCR48/HR29 – Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Big Island Chapter of Americans for Safe Access strongly supports HCR48/HR29 as hopefully it will pave the way to dispensaries in Hawai'i. Dispensaries are so badly needed. We are only one of two states in twenty that do not provide for a system whereby patients may access cannabis medicine. A task force to study and provide recommendations for a statewide dispensary system will be extremely useful.

Currently patients who cannot grow medical cannabis for any number of reasons or who cannot find a caregiver are forced to purchase cannabis from the black market. With the number of patients in the state growing at a rapid pace the situation becomes even more critical. The way it is now buying on the black market supports criminals and deprives the state from tax revenue generated from the sales of medical cannabis. Not even law enforcement would want that situation.

Please pass this resolution as 85% of Hawai'i voters support a dispensary system. Mahalo.

Andrea Tischler, Chair

HCR48

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HCR48

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The current system is forcing the vast majority of patients who cannot grow their own marijuana to buy their medicine on the street. This is a cruel way to treat the very sick. 85% of Hawaii's voters agree that we need a dispensary system in place. A dispensary system would also allow for a greater degree of quality assurance. Patients would be able to trust that the medicine they were buying is what it is supposed to be. Medicine could be tested, labelled and regulated. Some strains that are good for specific conditions would be easier to access. Strains that are good for nausea aren't always the right thing for patients suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, for instance.

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HCR48

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Ariel	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am 59 years old and my aches and pains from old injuries continue to be a growing problem. The gymnastic neck injury that qualified me for my medical marijuana card is just part of the problem. I never reported most of my other injuries because I was so 'macho tough'. Well, as I age those injuries continue to come back to 'haunt' me and medical marijuana helps me deal with my aches and pains. PLEASE make things easier for me by making it easier for me to get my medicine. Don't do ANYTHING to make it more difficult for me to get my medicine. Thank you!

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HCR48

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have suffered from Lyme Disease since 1989 when I was exposed to it in the military. Insurance won't cover my treatment and western medicine practiced by the VA, who does try to treat it, is not up to the task. I must therefore look towards traditional medicines that go back thousands of years for a more effective methods. Some studies show promise in using cannabis (marijuana) to treat Lyme disease. If we had dispensaries then I could try to cure this dreadful syphilis like disease. Please allow for dispensaries. I don't mind paying tax on it. Please make them carry only NON-GMO cannabis.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Support for HR 29 /HCR84 Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Jari Sugano and I am the mother and caregiver of an active 5 year old girl name Maile Jen Hope Kaneshiro, aka MJ who has been living daily with Dravet Syndrome. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HCR 48/HR29. You may ask yourself, 'what kind of mother considers giving their child marijuana?' My answer would be, 'one who has tried every legal medically available option to no avail and one who wants to do everything within her capacity to ensure her daughter lives another day.' Maile has Dravet syndrome which is a rare and catastrophic form of epilepsy. She suffers from 5 seizure types and has failed over a dozen pharmaceuticals, the ketogenic -high fat diet, as well as non-FDA approved drugs (stirepentol & clobazam) prescribed by the best pediatric neurologists in the nation. At the age of 4 months, Maile suffered a grand mal just a few hours after her immunizations. At 6 months, a status seizure sent her via ambulance to Kapiolani Medical Center where she suffered respiratory arrest in route and was intubated until she was able to recover and breathe on her own. Over the first four years, Maile had numerous seizures a day (estimated 3,000 a day-various types of seizures). She spent her early years of life riding in ambulances and having extended stays at children's hospitals in Hawaii, Chicago and Miami..She has endured numerous blood draws, surgical procedures, and countless hours of rehabilitative therapy sessions. Children with Dravet syndrome do not outgrow this condition. Treatment options are extremely limited and the prognosis for these children are poor. This condition has taken a toll not just on Maile's life but our families life as well. We have traveled the country and spend every resource possible to give MJ the best specialized care possible. However, we are at the end of the road for epilepsy management. We needed another option to help prolong Maile's lifespan and improve the overall quality of life for this determined, unrelenting little girl. The use of medicinal marijuana (MMJ) and Dravet hit the national news when Dr. Sanjay Gupta broke the story on CNN of a little girl named Charlotte Figi and her use of a high CBD, low THC marijuana oil to stop seizures. So at the age of 4, Maile applied and received her Hawaii state medicinal marijuana card. We developed a home made THC-A tincture (oil) made from homegrown unknown strains of cannabis. THC-A, like CBD, does not have psychoactive properties. Maile still suffers from seizures but the severity and quantity has subsided dramatically over the past 3 months. Her cognitive abilities seem to be slightly improved while on the THC-A concentrated oil. Her weekly myoclonic /atonic seizures have diminished by 80% and she is down to 1-2 grand mals a week. Unfortunately, we often run out of the oil / flower buds and her grand mals return. We are true believers that cannabis helps minimize her seizures and now understand the

seriousness of maintaining a constant, safe and lab tested supply of cannabis oil. At the age of 5, Maile remains significantly developmentally delayed. She is expected to be equivalent to a 10 month old as she does not walk, talk, eat, or do many things independently. However, seeing the positive impact of cannabis oil on MJ is giving us the strength to tackle the mountain before us, legislation. Since Hawaii does not have any testing labs or dispensaries, it is difficult to know what dosage Maile is on, or any other MMJ user for that matter. In Hawaii it is currently legal to use marijuana, its oils, and products for medicinal purposes. However, we lack access to global research and technologies which allows us to use these products properly and to its fullest potential. Without understanding the compounds in local marijuana products, obtaining long term seizure control is highly improbable. Safe access to all forms of marijuana products in and out of state is critical to the advancement of Maile's condition, as well as others in Hawaii who could benefit from the therapeutic properties of cannabis. Simply leaving the law as is and relying on the current marijuana law is not acceptable. Having a state medicinal marijuana program without having a lab or dispensary component to the existing program is as dangerous as giving an individual a pill bottle with no prescription or information to go by. We need to increase safe cannabis access & improve legislation to move Hawaii forward in providing Hawaii residents with medical grades of cannabis. People often justify the use of cannabis to minimize suffering at the end of one's life. We advocate that cannabis should be considered for keiki like Maile, as well as other kama'aina living with a medical condition in Hawaii to prolong and ultimately improve one's quality of life. We are not reckless in our decision making to use cannabis on our child. We are systematic and cautious. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Reckless use of marijuana has greatly jeopardized the advancement of Hawaii's medical marijuana program. We believe the use of cannabis can greatly help Maile where legal pharmaceuticals have failed her. Thank you for allowing me to share Maile's story and the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Kuo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawai'i recognizes medical marijuana as greatly beneficial to those suffering from serious illness. Thankfully, it is legal for such patients to use medical marijuana for relief. However, I believe our failure to provide a way for patients to obtain this medicine is short sighted and downright cruel. I fully support this direction toward the establishment of a regulated statewide medical marijuana dispensary system. Thank you very much.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support for HR 29 /HCR84 Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Marissa Sugano of Mililani, Oahu. In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medicinal marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros who may need medicinal marijuana down the road. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84.

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Testimonial in SUPPORT of HR29 HD1

Submitted by:
Vincent Kimura

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned resident of the state of Hawaii, and seeing the scientific benefits of certain strains of cannabis helping our youth, I am strongly **IN SUPPORT** of HR29 HD1.

HR29 HD1 is important to our residents needing a solution that is safe and timely, to individuals like MJ Sugaro, it is potentially something that can change their life. Epilepsy and seizures are very tough on the mental and physical attributes of each of our youth that have rare diseases such as Dravet Syndrome. Seeing so many cities, states and countries move to approve the use of medical marijuana to treat difficult diseases, I believe the timing and perception of cannabis has changed; it is time to seriously look at how cannabis can benefit society.

I look forward to supporting this measure and will continue to see change happen in our state. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Kimura

HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clyde Fukuyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Clyde Fukuyama. In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros who may need medical marijuana. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Please support HR29/HCR84.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pat Mihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medicinal marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros who may need medicinal marijuana down the road. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kaneshiro	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support for HR 29 /HCR84 Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Lisa and I am from Honolulu. In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros who may need medicinal marijuana down the road. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84.

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House Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2014

2:00 PM

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Strong Support – HCR48/HR29 – Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Har,

This resolution paves the way for a dispensary system in Hawaii. This resolution establishes a task force to design a suitable dispensary system in Hawaii, and this task force will be a good way for us all to give input on how we hope to see the system work. As it currently stands we have a system where it is legal to have marijuana, but it is illegal to get it. Sick people have to buy their medicine on the black market and this is not the intent of the law. This resolution will help develop a system of dispensaries so that the very sick do not need to get their medicine on the black market.

The current system in Hawaii is such that all medical cannabis patients are required to grow their own medicine. This works well for some patients but excludes many people:

- People who don't have the *strength*, or *skill* to grow their own marijuana.
- People who rent and don't have the *space*, or are forbidden from growing marijuana by their rental agreement.
- People who don't have *time* to grow their own medicine because they are sick when they come to Hawaii or become sick and need treatment immediately.

A dispensary system would also allow for a greater degree of quality assurance.

- Patients would be able to trust that the medicine they were buying is what it is supposed to be.
- Medicine could be tested, labeled and regulated.
- Some strains that are good for specific conditions would be easier to access. Strains that are good for nausea aren't always the right thing for patients suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, for instance.

The current system is forcing patients to buy their medicine on the street. **This is is a cruel way to treat the very sick.** 85% of Hawaii's voters agree that we need a dispensary system in place.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Craig R. Ellenwood

HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
k maile	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As Hawaii recognizes the benefits of medical marijuana for its kamaaina, it also needs to consider opening dispensaries. By denying medical marijuana patients safe, lab tested, consistent access to pharmacy grade product, the state forces these individuals to find the appropriate dosage through trial and error. I would liken it to expecting cancer patients to produce and create their own supply of chemotherapy medication via trial and error and Internet searches. Currently patients must find their own supplier or learn to grow and cultivate their own plants. They must then ensure they know how much and often to consume it; and once able to find the correct dosage, hope their supply or plant remains consistent.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Becky Fukuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee, My name is Becky Fukuda of Mililani, Oahu and I am writing in support of HR29/HCR84. In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros, specifically 5 year old M.J. Kaneshiro, who may need medicinal marijuana down the road. During the month of January 2014 alone, she had 7 grand mal seizures (which is considered extremely good for her, due to being on marijuana oil). M.J. averaged significantly more grand mal seizures prior to having the marijuana oil. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Passing HR29/HCR84 would allow M.J. access to the correct dosage and percent of medical marijuana (the specific type she needs – high in CBD) would no doubt improve the quality of life for her and her family and possibly increase her life span. Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of HR29/HCR84. Sincerely, Becky Fukuda

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Ogata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In the 1970's, my father's good friend was dying of cancer. To keep his appetite up he had to illegally get marijuana to smoke, just to eat. Today, there are many documented uses for marijuana as a medicine. A government run or sanctioned pharmacy would assist those who need these drugs to have legal access to these medicines derived from marijuana. The compounds THC-D and CBD found in marijuana are not psychoactive are are documented to reduce seizures. A bonafides pharmacy dispensing know quantities of these drugs would greatly assist people in being more productive in our society. Please support this bill.

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HCR48

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
skye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Hi. My name is Charlotte Martin Del Campo, and I am in favor of legalizing and allowing MEDICAL MARIJUANA for people who need it to have a better quality of life.

In particular, I write for the little girl called MJ, whose mother Jari (Sugano) Kaneshiro has been testifying because the liquid form of the extract that Jari has been able to get has drastically cut down the number of seizures that MJ has been having in her short life. Now since MJ's mom has been able to figure out how to extract the liquid from the marijuana plant, the little girl can live a fairly normal life and her family can take little breathers. But, it takes away from family time to reach this process. Thus, if medical dispensaries are allowed here, life would be so much easier for parents like Jari and their families.

It just doesn't make sense to be allowed to grow marijuana; but if you don't know how to turn it into (in this case) a liquid form that is safe for a child (or adult) to take, it is like a catch 22.

We would appreciate passing bill HR29/HCR84 that would legalize medical marijuana dispensaries for the many many people who need relief from the pains and seizures of life-threatening diseases that would make life so much more bearable.

All you need are legitimate dispensaries and strict rules on how someone can get the medical marijuana using honest physicians. And all involved in the process from the dispensaries to physicians to users must adhere to strict rules and regulations.

Thanks for your time.

Charlotte Martin Del Campo

HCR48

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Fukuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Steven Fukuda of Mililani, Oahu and I am writing in support of HR29/HCR84. In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros, specifically 5 year old M.J. Kaneshiro, who may need medicinal marijuana down the road. During the month of January 2014 alone, she had 7 grand mal seizures (which is considered extremely good for her, due to being on marijuana oil). M.J. averaged significantly more grand mal seizures prior to having the marijuana oil. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Passing HR29/HCR84 would allow M.J. access to the correct dosage and percent of medical marijuana (the specific type she needs – high in CBD) would no doubt improve the quality of life for her and her family and possibly increase her life span. Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of HR29/HCR84. Sincerely, Steven Fukuda

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JUD rm 325 3/28/14 2:00 PM

Rep. Karl Rhoads, JUD, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, JUD, Vice Chair

RE; HCR48/HR29 – Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Position: Strong Support

Representing: Robert Petricci

Aloha, thank you for the opportunity to testify today, my name is Robert Petricci, I am a medical marijuana patient in the Hawaii state program.

HCR48/HR29 paves the way after 14 years for a dispensary system in Hawaii. A task force to design a suitable dispensary system in Hawaii is a logical next step after so many previous attempts to do so failed. A task force should allow us all to give input on how we hope to see the system work.

Thank you for your consideration

Robert Petricci

Support for HR 29 /HCR84

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Ruth Niino-DuPonte, currently of Hilo, HI.

In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros who may need medicinal marijuana as other treatments prove ineffective or have undesirable side effects.

Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. It is unfortunate that a potentially life-saving pharmacological compound happens to be a component of a plant that has been used/abused as a recreational drug. I am grateful that there are people elected to the House and Senate who are willing to examine issues with an open mind and consider new data that shatter long-held "truths". History is filled with advances in science and medicine that only came about because individuals, such as yourselves, were courageous enough to take action, such as advancing measure HR29/HCR84 to battle debilitating health conditions, like Dravet syndrome that is affecting the wonderful Kaneshiro family.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84.

HR29

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: please support this measure as medical marijuana is known to help many who cannot get relief through western pharmaceutical medicines. and many of those in need, do not have the ability to grow their own medicine and need a medical dispensary. mahalo for your understanding and support.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kaneshiro	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is of Oahu. In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medicinal marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the Kaneshiros who may need medicinal marijuana down the road. Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84.

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HR29

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lovelyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam: I am writing to ask you to support HR 29 / HCR 84. As a parent, I know that I would do anything for my children. If I knew that medical marijuana was what they needed to have a better quality of life, I would do anything I could to give them that. No family should be forced to have to consider "alternative" ways of getting the medical marijuana their children need. Please help families, like the Kaneshiro's, get safe access to medical marijuana. When you have a sick child, the last struggle a family should face is growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana. Please help to structure the law so the establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards can be made available in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of HR 29 / HCR 84. Sincerely, Lovelyn Abanes

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Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

My name is Jane Sugano of Aiea, Hawaii. I am the grandmother of Maile Jen (MJ) Kaneshiro, who is five years old. MJ has been living daily with Dravet Syndrome. Dravet Syndrome is a rare and catastrophic form of epilepsy. MJ suffers from five seizure types. She has tried the ketogenic-high fat diet, and has taken over a dozen pharmaceuticals as well as a few non-FDA approved drugs prescribed by some of the best pediatric neurologists in the nation without much success. Many of these drugs have dangerous side effects.

At the age of 4 months, MJ suffered a grand mal just a few hours after her vaccination. I was in the car with MJ and her mother/my daughter, Jari Kaneshiro Sugano. I noticed a strange high pitched cry. It was very frightening and heartbreaking watching a baby having a seizure! Fortunately, a fire department was a block away and she was able to receive help.

Since that day, MJ has suffered daily from numerous seizures. At 6 months, a status seizure sent her in an ambulance to Kapiolani Medical Center, where she suffered respiratory arrest in route and was incubated until she was able to recover and breathe on her own. MJ spent her early years of life riding in ambulances and having extended stays at children's hospitals in Hawaii, Chicago and Miami. She has endured numerous blood draws, surgical procedures, and countless hours of rehabilitative therapy sessions.

In October 2013, MJ's mother applied and received MJ's Hawaii state medicinal marijuana card. MJ consumes marijuana leaves daily and her mother, Jari, has been working on creating a THC-A tincture using locally available strains of marijuana. THC-A, like CBD is not psychoactive. MJ still suffers from seizures but the severity and quantity has subsided dramatically over the past few months.

Jari has spent countless hours trying to grow the marijuana plants and harvest the buds. Then experimenting on extracting the liquid to create a THC-A tincture. Fortunately, Jari has a background in science, agriculture, and horticulture, but not many parents or caregivers will be able to do what she has done to help their child or love one. Still finding the correct dozes if still another challenge to overcome!

If the Hawaii Department of Health could be in charge of a medical dispensary with strict safeguards & harsh penalties for abuse, no family would have to worry about growing and dispensing their own medical marijuana for their child or love one. Life is already a struggle for their families!

Dr. Sunjay Gupta has been traveling across the nation trying to help these families legally purchase cannabis oil, such Charlotte's Web, for their children. Many parents have no other choice but to move to Colorado to legally purchase cannabis oil to save the life of their child. Please make time to see Dr. Gupta's Weed 2 on CNN to see how these families struggle daily with their child's seizures. Please support HR29/HCR84!

My sincerest mahalo for this opportunity to express my strong support of HR29/HCR84.

Jane Sugano

March 26, 2014

SUPPORT FOR HR29 / HCR84

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Harr and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Melba Ogata of Oahu.

In a time of medical need, no family should have to struggle with growing and dispensing their own medicinal marijuana. Please structure the law such that advancement can be made to help families like the **Kaneshiros** who may need medicinal marijuana down the road.

Establishment of a dispensary or other safeguards in Hawaii could increase the efficacy and healing potential of Hawaii's existing medical marijuana program.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of HR29/HCR84.



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
public policy center
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

LATE

March 27, 2014

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair of the Senate Health Committee
From: Susan Chandler, Director, College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center

Re: HCR 48, HD1

Senator Green, Senator Baker and members of the Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I have been asked to respond to the request to have the Public Policy Center (PPC) convene a Medical Marijuana Dispensary System Task Force, review the recommendations of the updated Legislative Reference Bureau's report, summarize the recommendations heard from the committee members and report back to the Legislature on a design and structure of a regulated statewide dispensary system.

While the PPC does not have substantive expertise in this particular area, we are able to convene a group of stakeholders and policy experts and facilitate their meeting; prepare agendas; keep minutes; write progress reports and submit a final report to the Legislature. These activities come under the Center's mission to assist the State of Hawai'i by facilitating policy dialogs on crucial issues.

We are happy to assist.

Susan M. Chandler, Ph.D
Director, Public Policy Center
Professor, Public Administration Program

LATE



Dedicated to safe, responsible, and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pamela Lichy, MPH
President

DATE: March 28, 2014, room 325, 2 p.m.

RE: H.C.R. 48 H.D. 1/H.R.29 H.D.1 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATED STATEWIDE DISPENSARY SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA - **In Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichy and I'm testifying in strong support of this measure on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group, the governmental affairs arm of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.

I know this Committee is well aware of the pressing need for a medical cannabis dispensary system in the state of Hawaii. H.C.R. 48, H.D. 1 presents an overview of Hawaii's medical marijuana law and explains the urgent need for safe and legal access to this medicine. Some of you were present at the Health Committee's excellent February 19th informational briefing on the state's medical marijuana program. I don't think there's a need to further explain the many reasons Hawaii needs such a system.

Having said that, there are now at least 18 different dispensary systems in the respective medical marijuana states plus D.C. The task force called for in this resolution is critically important to help Hawaii design a carefully regulated, tightly controlled system which safeguards the public while providing access to the almost 13,000 patients who are registered in this program. **Because Hawaii is starting from scratch, and because we have numerous models to look to, we have a unique opportunity to do a dispensary program right.**

We think the establishment of a task force to make specific recommendations on a dispensary system for our state is an absolute necessity if Hawaii is ever to

have a good distribution system in place for the many patients who are unable to grow their own supply.

I have a few specific comments on H.C.R. 48, H.D.1 itself. We think it is useful that the LRB is asked here to issue a revised and updated report. Although the latter was published only five years ago, the landscape of medical marijuana regulation has changed dramatically.

In the 2009 report it lists thirteen active medical marijuana programs; there are now twenty plus D.C. Whereas it found only two or three states with a distribution system, Hawaii is now one of only two or three medical marijuana jurisdictions that does **not** have a dispensary system - either in place or in the process of implementation. The Federal government, while still maintaining its position that there is no legitimate use for cannabis as medicine, has nonetheless issued a series of directives with the effect of granting states autonomy, as long as their programs adhere to commonsense guidelines.

We think that the Public Policy Center at the University of Hawaii is perfectly positioned to convene the task force. Not only does such a role fit perfectly with their mandate of "facilitating a policy dialogue," the Center is also a highly credible and neutral body to perform this role.

We are pleased that our sister organization, the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, has been added to the Task Force. We have been working on issues surrounding medical marijuana since before the 2000 passage of the law; we are in regular contact with relevant programs in many of the other jurisdictions; and, as President of the Drug Policy Forum, I served as co-chair of the Medical Cannabis Working Group in 2009-10 which is mentioned in the resolution.

Incidentally, there appears to be a typographical error in the second-to-last whereas clause (p. 2, lines 34-37.)

We hope and anticipate that by establishing this Task Force with its mandate to recommend and propose legislation, the Legislature will be poised next session to pass a law to establish a long overdue, well-designed, tightly regulated dispensary system to serve the needs of Hawaii nei.

Thank you for hearing this measure today, and for giving us the opportunity to testify.



Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
P: (808) 941-2231
F: (808) 945-9478

Kokokahi YWCA
45-035 Kane'ohe Bay Drive
Kane'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
P: (808) 247-2124
F: (808) 247-6124

Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
P: (808) 538-7061
F: (808) 521-8416

March 28, 2014

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: HCR12/ HR 7–Requesting the University of Hawaii to Affirm Its Commitment to Uphold the Tenants of Title IX and VAWA 2013 – SUPPORT

House Committees on Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce
March 28, 2014 – 2 p.m. – Conference Room 325

Aloha Chairs Rhoads, McKelvey and members of the committees:

My name is Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of O'ahu, testifying in support for HCR12/HR 7.

Despite the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance, and the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”), which expands protections for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault, it is still shocking to see that even today one in five women will be the victim of rape or attempted rape. For women who attend college, the statistics are grimmer with one in four college women reporting rape or attempted rape since their 14th birthday.

In 2012, UH Manoa reported 11 forcible sex offenses in 2012 according to a campus report issued in compliance with the Clery Act, which provides guidelines for campus safety and security reporting. System-wide, the number was 11 in 2012. In 2011, UH Manoa reported 12 assaults with 16 reported system-wide.

The Clery Act requires annual reporting of statistics for various criminal offenses including sexual assault, however, Kauai and Leeward campus did not issue reports for the last two years.

Although Title IX and the changes to VAWA, specifically to Section 304 – that Campus Sexual Violence Act Provision – which imposes new rules that demand institutional overhaul and a renewed commitment to compliance at universities like UH which receive federal funding, UH students continue to face sexual violence on campus. We are gravely concerned that not only are sexual crimes under-reported system-wide, they are going unreported and perpetrators are getting away unpunished.

We humbly urge members of this committee to pass these resolutions and urge the University of Hawaii system to fully implement the changes as required by the 2013 VAWA, which require by March 7, 2014:

- Reporting of domestic violence dating violence, and stalking, beyond crime categories the Clery Act already mandates;
- Adopt certain institutional policies to address and prevent campus sexual violence, such as to train in particular respects pertinent institutional personnel;
- Offer new students and employees “primary prevention and awareness programs;”
- Implement new policies concerning victims procedures;
- Recognize “national origin” and gender identity to hate crime categories to be reported under the Clery Act; and
- Withhold victims’ names in Clery Act reports.

Since its founding in 1900, the YWCA of O‘ahu exists to cultivate opportunities for women’s and girls’ growth and leadership, to help them create fulfilling lives for themselves and their families, and facilitating social change with positive economic impact for their communities.

Sincerely,

Noriko Namiki
CEO
YWCA of O‘ahu



Testimony in Opposition to HCR 48 HD1
Hearing on March 28, 2014
2:00 pm, Conference Room 325

TO: Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair

FR: Alan Shinn, Executive Director
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite A259
Honolulu, HI 96817

Please accept this written testimony in opposition to HCR 48 HD1 to establish a task force to develop recommendations for the establishment of a regulated statewide dispensary system for medical marijuana.

There are no good models for tightly regulated dispensary systems for medical marijuana at this time. However, there are examples of states with dispensary systems that are not regulated well such as Los Angeles County. Lax enforcement can lead to abuse by those who seek to use marijuana without legitimate reasons as well as other unintended consequences.

Medical marijuana states show increases in use and abuse especially by adolescents compared to non-medical marijuana states. According to SAMHSA, lowered perception of harm and normalizing marijuana increases use despite age restrictions. There is no representation from the community on the statewide dispensary task force that addresses substance abuse prevention or treatment concerns.

Dispensaries do not insure the marijuana provided is safe and meets the needs of individuals who are sick and dying since there is no way to certify the product. No true medicine is smoked or eaten as a metabolite because it is impossible to accurately dose.

Formulating the therapeutic components of marijuana in a non-smoked form that delivers a defined dose is a better way to go. It is preferable to develop marijuana-based medications through the FDA process and have patients supervised by their primary physicians to insure maximum benefits of the drug. Dispensaries will not address this issue.

Efforts should be made by Hawaii and other medical marijuana states to petition the FDA to allow exceptions and/or to set up special clinical trials for the truly sick and dying to access CBD-based drugs that are being developed and are in trial stages.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HCR 48 HD1.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
 TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org

KIRK CALDWELL
 MAYOR



STATE TESTIMONY

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
 CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
 MARIE A. McCAULEY
 DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE JK-TA

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
 and Members
 Committee on Judiciary
 State House of Representatives
 Hawaii State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Resolution No. 29, H.D. 1, Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Develop Recommendations for the Establishment of a Regulated Statewide Dispensary System for Medical Marijuana

I am Jason Kawabata, Acting Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes House Resolution No. 29, H.D. 1, Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Develop Recommendations for the Establishment of a Regulated Statewide Dispensary System for Medical Marijuana.

A study by the University of California, Los Angeles, found that the more medical marijuana dispensaries and delivery services a city has, the more its residents use marijuana regardless of whether or not they have a medical reason. Opening marijuana dispensaries will widen availability and misuse regardless of the controls that are in place.

Although medical marijuana is currently legal in Hawaii for use by the seriously ill, research by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) indicates that marijuana has no current acceptable or proven medical use. The FDA does not approve the use of marijuana as a form of medical treatment.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine rejects smoking marijuana as a means of drug delivery. The American Cancer Society does not advocate the use of marijuana in its inhaled form. The American Glaucoma Foundation and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society state that they cannot recommend the medical use of marijuana.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Page 2
March 28, 2014

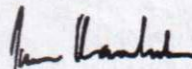
The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association are opposed to the legalization of marijuana. The American Psychiatric Association states that there is no current scientific evidence that marijuana is in any way beneficial for the treatment of any psychiatric disorder. They further state that no medication approved by the FDA is smoked.

Components of marijuana do have medical value, and research in the area is ongoing. Nabilone and dronabinol have already been approved by the FDA. Doctors are allowed to prescribe these medications, and pharmacies are allowed to fill those prescriptions. Other drugs are pending FDA approval or are being scientifically developed.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Resolution No. 29, H.D. 1, Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Develop Recommendations for the Establishment of a Regulated Statewide Dispensary System for Medical Marijuana.

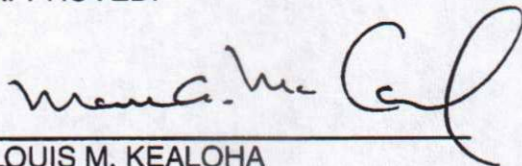
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



JASON KAWABATA, Acting Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (HCR) 48, HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1 /
HOUSE RESOLUTION (HR) 29, HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1
A RESOLUTION RELATING TO
REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATED STATEWIDE
DISPENSARY SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2014 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chairs Rhoads and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Har and Kawakami, and Members of the
Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** HCR 48, HD 1 and
HR 29, HD 1 which would convene a task force to develop recommendations for the
establishment of a regulated statewide dispensary system for medical marijuana.

PSD would be glad to participate on this task force when it is convened.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**HCR48, HD1/HR29, HD1 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK
FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A REGULATED STATEWIDE DISPENSARY SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL
MARIJUANA**

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 28, 2014

- 1 **Department's Position:** Supports
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution requests, with concurrence of the Senate, that the Public
- 4 Policy Center in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (Public Policy
- 5 Center) convene a Medical Marijuana Dispensary System Task Force to develop recommendations and
- 6 propose legislation for the design and structure of a regulated statewide dispensing system for medical
- 7 marijuana. Membership of the Task Force is broad and includes relevant stakeholders. The resolution
- 8 requests that the Legislative Review Board complete and submit to the Task Force by September 1,
- 9 2014, an updated report on the policies and procedures for access, distribution, security, and other
- 10 relevant issues related to the medical use, growth and cultivation of cannabis in all states that currently
- 11 have a medical cannabis program. The Task Force is requested to hold at least one public hearing and to
- 12 submit a report of findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no
- 13 later than 20 days prior to the start of the 2015 Regular Session.

1 The Department supports this measure to have a task force take an informed thoughtful approach
2 to the many issues around medical marijuana dispensaries for Hawaii.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR48

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Brittain, LCSW	Effective Change, LLC	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill, as medical marijuana dispensaries will solve many of the problems that have plagued Hawaii for years. These problems are not just affecting a small number of fringe marijuana patients; these issues affect everyone in Hawaii, either directly or indirectly. A regulated and competently run medicinal dispensary system will improve public health, safety, economic status, and many other social indicators. Please pass this bill, and include the following issues when you consider it: 1) Given that there is 4% of the big island population in possession of a blue card, and extending that average to the state, there should be about 48,000 eligible MUM patients. 2) Given that any one person has a circle of about 10 people who are family or friends, that means that the MUM segment of the population is about 480,000, representing a large voting block 3) Given that once dispensaries are legalized, those numbers can be increased by about one half again, increasing the numbers to about 60,000 and 600,000, respectively 4) Given the current numbers, of 12,000 medical marijuana patients, and each of them consuming one ounce of cannabis, valued at \$400 an ounce, that means that there are about 144,000 ounces of legal marijuana produced and consumed annually in Hawaii. Total value is about \$57,600,000. Using the projection of 48,000 potential patients, as detailed above, and with cannabis valued at only \$300 per ounce, there would be 576,000 ounces consumed, with a value of \$172,800,000. 5) Projecting the 60,000 patient figure once dispensaries are legal, with a value of \$300 per ounce, that means that there will be about \$216,000,000 worth of marijuana produced and consumed annually in Hawaii. 6) If Hawaii is wise, and allows for visitors to use their out-of-state medical marijuana certificates in Hawaii, then it may well be true that the numbers estimated above could increased by half again, resulting in about a quarter BILLION dollars of total sales per year through legal dispensaries. Law Enforcement: 1) Cannabis has been shown to have about the same addictive risk as caffeine (reference needed, I have seen it) 2) A major risk to law enforcement officers related to illegal marijuana is that police must deal with unknown situations and people, and assess whether they are criminals or not, sometimes with tragic results (police force when it was not needed); legalization will eliminate this risk. 3) Regulation and taxation of marijuana will take the money out of the black market, reducing the input of money into the hands of criminals who sell hard drugs like meth, and reducing their financial ability to buy hard drugs and weapons, resulting in a safer working environment for the police and increased public safety 4) Public/popular support for medicinal cannabis runs above 60% in any poll cited, so police crack-down on cannabis sours public opinion of police; whereas police support of safe and controlled production and use of cannabis builds public trust in the police force 5) Public safety will be increased as production facilities are regulated; for butane-extraction, it will be regulated, with fewer explosive events; for agricultural production, there will be fewer burglaries/robberies, etc (and associated violence) General Public: 1) No reported overdose death from toxic overdose 2) Dozens of deaths resultant from police shooting marijuana users 3) hundreds of deaths per year resulting from drug cartels and dealers killing each other over smuggling routes and turf wars 4) Medicinal use has been present for thousands of years

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LATE TESTIMONY

HCR48

Submitted on: 3/28/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Mary Overbay, support the formation of a task force to create a compassionate and logical medical marijuana program in Hawaii. For over a decade, the law, lawmakers, and enforcement agencies have been silent on how a registered medical marijuana patient may "acquire" their medicine. I have sent registered letters to the Maui police chief, Hawaii's governor, and the Hawaii state attorney general, asking how I, as a registered medical marijuana patient, may "acquire" my medicine. I did not received any replies.

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LATE TESTIMONY

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Star Souza and I am the daily nurse in charge of Maile Jen's care at school. I am providing my personal testimony in support of Maile and her need for a safe form of marijuana. I am in strong support of HR29, which is support for creating a dispensary.

I've witnessed Maile having mild to severe seizures, to the point where oxygen is required. It is so heartbreaking to see. As a nurse, one of my roles is to be an advocate for the patient. I have been told by the patient's parents that seizure medications have little to no impact on Maile's seizures. Patient's mom, Jari Kaneshiro, has found stories of other children, who have seizure disorders, that have greatly benefitted from the use of medical marijuana. If this is the key for Maile to have a better quality of life, please don't deny her that. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

LATE TESTIMONY

HCR48

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 28, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn M. Wasserman, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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