



Committee: Committee on Health
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, April 21, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 229
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.C.R. 74

Dear Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Health:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.C.R. 74, Requesting a Sunrise Review of the Establishment of a System of Registered Dispensaries within the Department of Health to Dispense Medical Marijuana.

There is currently no legal way for patients to obtain medical marijuana, besides growing it themselves. This puts patients who are unable to grow marijuana (due to living situation or physical health) in an extremely difficult situation, because they must break the law in order to procure their medication. This resolution is a step toward eliminating the gray area of how to obtain medical marijuana, thus sparing patients from having to resort to the black market.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gluck
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Monday, March 21, 2014

8:30 a.m.

Room 229

HCR 74 - REQUESTING A SUNRISE REVIEW OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF REGISTERED DISPENSARIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DISPENSE MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee!

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.

While Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports the establishment of a system of regulated dispensaries, it is our understanding that this type of review is for the establishment of professional licenses. That being the case, we believe that a sunrise review is therefore unnecessary.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.