

SB 2358

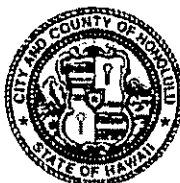
RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Establishes a civil violation for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana that is subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

PSM, JDL

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KARR CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE: JI-TA

February 13, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2358, Relating to Marijuana

I am Jerry Inouye, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes Senate Bill No. 2358, Relating to Marijuana.

This bill seeks to amend Chapter 329, Uniformed Controlled Substances Act, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section establishing the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana as a civil violation subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.

Marijuana use is harmful. In 2010, marijuana was involved in more than 461,000 emergency room visits nationwide. This amounts to almost 39 percent of all emergency room visits involving illicit drugs. In 2011, approximately 872,000 Americans who are 12 years and older reported receiving treatment for marijuana use, and this is more than any other illicit drug.

Marijuana use is especially harmful to juveniles. Researchers have found that young people may be more susceptible than adults to marijuana's neurological effects because young people's brains are still developing. Marijuana use has been associated with verbal learning disadvantages, attention problems, short-term memory loss, difficulty with problem solving, and trouble exercising restraint. In other research, those who started using marijuana before the age of 18 experienced a significant drop in their IQ scores that persisted 25 years later.

This bill serves as a de facto legalization of marijuana because the provisions contained within make violations virtually unenforceable. Law enforcement would not have the authority to compel violators to produce proof of identification. By contrast, traffic violations are enforceable because drivers are identified; those who do not present a valid license are subject to arrest.

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members

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February 13, 2014

Decriminalizing marijuana sends the wrong message to Hawaii's young people. It is inconsistent with our long-standing efforts to keep them drug-free. It will widen availability and misuse regardless of the controls that are in place. Keeping marijuana illegal reduces its availability and discourages its use.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2358, Relating to Marijuana.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



JERRY NOUYE, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

William P. Keno
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i
POLICE DEPARTMENT
319 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax: (808) 961-8865

February 10, 2014

Senator Will Espero
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 2358 Relating to Marijuana

Dear Senator Espero:

The Hawai'i Police Department strongly opposes passage of Senate Bill 2358, relating to Marijuana. The stated intent of this legislation is to reduce current statutory language regarding possession of an ounce or less of marijuana to a civil violation subject to no more than a \$1,000 fine.

This Bill is flawed in failing to address some fundamental Health issues. First and foremost, Marijuana contains a mind-altering substance. Hawai'i is constantly facing a myriad of both physiological and psychological problems associated with Marijuana use. The University of Mississippi's National Center for Natural Products Research, in their January 2010 "Potency Monitoring Project Quarterly Report 107," revealed that since 1998 through 2008, the average potency of THC percentage content in Marijuana rose from 5% to 10%. This study, in its most basic interpretation, means this mind-altering substance is getting stronger and would lead one to conclude it is, therefore, having a greater effect on the user.

In addition, we are also concerned about the message that decriminalization will send. First of all, a maximum civil fine of \$1,000 fails to take into account the fact that the current market value of one ounce of Marijuana is \$250 to \$400. Secondly, it may have prosecution/judicial ramifications in those instances where the user has either an ounce or less of Marijuana, while at the same time illegally possessing other Schedule I drugs, where one is civil and the other criminal.

By decriminalizing Marijuana, no matter what the amount is, the clear message being sent to our communities, to include our impressionable youth, is that Marijuana consumption is acceptable and harmless. That is not the case and, as such, the current statutes governing Marijuana possession and consumption should not be decriminalized.

Senator Will Espero

Re: Senate Bill 2358 Relating to Marijuana

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We are concerned as to the anecdotal opening of the legislation stating, "Recent polls have shown that there is growing sentiment among voters for making marijuana possession for personal use a civil violation instead of a crime." Our concern is first of all the validity of the polling methods utilized; and secondly, our belief that popularity should not be an overriding concern but rather the safety and lawfulness of the issue at hand should be first and foremost in the consideration of all legislation.

It seems somewhat odd that the State and County governments in Hawai'i are continuously restricting the availability and use of tobacco products and at the same time would consider decriminalizing a proven mind-altering substance with its attendant ill effects on both the users and non-users of the substance.

The Hawai'i Police Department is unable to overlook the results of a recent study by the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health which gathered data from six states – California, **Hawaii**, Illinois, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and West Virginia which are states that perform toxicology tests on drivers involved in fatal car crashes between 1999 and 2010. Dr. Guohua Li, director of the Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention at Columbia, and co-author of the study has reported that alcohol contributed to about 40 percent of traffic fatalities throughout the decade.

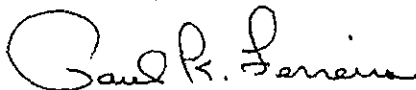
The researchers found that drugs played an increasing role in fatal traffic accidents. Drugged driving accounted for more than 28 percent of traffic deaths in 2010, which is 16 percent more than it was in 1999.

The researchers also found that **marijuana was the main drug involved in the increase**. It contributed to 12 percent of fatal crashes, compared to only 4 percent in 1999.

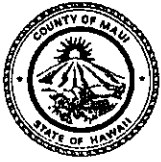
Lastly, we are hard-pressed to ignore the recent 2013 statements by eight former heads of the DEA and four former heads of the Office of National Drug Control Policy urging the federal government to nullify the recent votes in Colorado and Washington with regards to legalization/decriminalization.

For these reasons, we urge this committee on behalf of the community we serve to reject this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to testify on Senate Bill No. 2358.

Sincerely,



PAUL K. FERREIRA
ACTING POLICE CHIEF



ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
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February 11, 2014



GARY A. YABUTA
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill No. 2358 - Relating to Marijuana

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department strongly OPPOSES the passing of SB 2358. This bill establishes a civil violation for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana that is subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

This bill will send a wrong message to the community. We feel that it will increase the demand for marijuana and will have negative effects with increased negative social issues and problems associated with drug addictions.

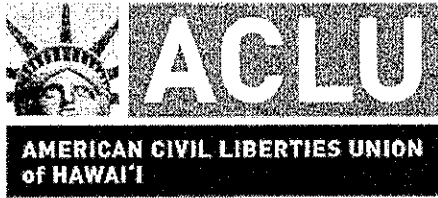
One ounce (28.35 grams) of marijuana can produce approximately 56 marijuana cigarette joints. With the decriminalization of marijuana, the temptation for abuse of the law will increase. One person with 56 marijuana joints on a daily basis cultures an atmosphere for total abuse, as the excess can be sold or distributed on the streets of our communities. Marijuana is still a Schedule I drug in both the federal and state legal systems. In Hawaii, possession of an ounce or more should continue to be a misdemeanor in accordance with the Hawaii Revised Statutes, as it is punishable by a maximum of one-year imprisonment, and a \$2,000 fine. To decriminalize a misdemeanor is not in the best interest of the community, which still complains of marijuana propagation, dealing, and open smoking.

The Maui Police Department again asks for your OPPOSITION to SB 2358.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

ACD. Yabuta
For GARY A. YABUTA
Chief of Police



Committee: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2014, 2:50 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2358, Relating to Marijuana

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of S.B. 2358, which seeks to decriminalize marijuana possession.

Decriminalization is a safe and smart alternative approach to marijuana criminalization. Our state’s unfair and ineffective marijuana laws have damaged civil liberties in many ways – eroding protections against searches and seizures, putting large numbers of non-violent individuals behind bars and targeting people of color. Eliminating criminal penalties for low-level marijuana possession will prevent thousands of people from becoming entangled needlessly in the criminal justice system, eliminate many collateral consequences that flow from marijuana arrests (often more dangerous than the use of marijuana itself) and allow Hawaii to reinvest the money it saves for important community needs.

Decriminalization takes a step towards ending Hawaii’s participation in the nation’s failed War on Drugs, which has cost taxpayers \$1 trillion but has produced little to no effect on the supply of or demand for drugs. The War on Drugs has sent millions of people to prison for low-level offenses and seriously eroded our civil liberties and civil rights while costing taxpayers billions of dollars a year, with nothing to show for it except our status as the world’s largest jailer. There are 2.3 million people behind bars in this country — triple the amount of prisoners we had in 1987 and more than all of Europe combined — and 25 percent of those incarcerated are locked up for drug offenses. It’s time to end the unjust and unsuccessful war on drugs and implement a more responsible drug policy in Hawaii by passing S.B. 2358.

Decriminalization will allow Hawaii to shift its resources towards more serious threats to public safety and direct savings and revenue towards health care, drug prevention and public health education and other community concerns.

Decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana will (1) redirect law enforcement resources to more serious threats to public safety; (2) direct savings and revenue towards health

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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www.acluhawaii.org

Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
February 13, 2014
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care, drug prevention and public health education and other community concerns; (3) reduce the number of unreasonable arrests for marijuana possession and (4) reduce the targeting of communities disproportionately impacted by Hawaii's current marijuana laws.

David Nixon, an independent University of Hawaii economist, was commissioned to update a 2005 study on the state of marijuana law enforcement in Hawaii. Nixon was asked to examine the costs of current law enforcement policies, and to predict the economic impacts if Hawaii were to decriminalize or legalize, tax and regulate marijuana. According to Nixon, by decriminalizing marijuana, Hawaii could redirect over \$9 million annually in law enforcement costs.¹

The decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana will reduce the number of unreasonable arrests for marijuana possession in our already bloated criminal justice system.

Since 2004, Hawaii has seen a surge in marijuana arrests. Possession arrests have increased almost 50 percent, and distribution arrests have almost doubled. Arrests for possession of small amounts of marijuana constitute one of the most common points of entry into the criminal justice system. Removing criminal penalties for marijuana possession will keep people out of jail for probation and parole violations, and will eliminate the many collateral consequences that flow from marijuana arrests, thereby reducing the gross number of people entering or otherwise harmed by the criminal justice system.

Decriminalization will reduce the targeting of communities disproportionately impacted by Hawaii's current laws.

Hawaii's marijuana laws disproportionately impact males less than 25 years of age and people of native Hawaiian descent. These groups were arrested in numbers disproportionate to their share of the population.

Sixteen states have decriminalized the adult possession of marijuana,² while cultivation and distribution remain criminal offenses. In November 2012, voters in Colorado and Washington

¹ David Nixon, "Update to: Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization and Legalization for Hawai'i" see http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/econreptmarijuana1_2013.pdf.

² Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington. See Marijuana Policy Project, State Laws with

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Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on
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February 13, 2014
Page 3 of 3

made history when they took a stand for a safe and smart alternative to marijuana prohibition and chose to legalize small quantities of marijuana for persons over 21 years of age or older. Similar proposals have been or are expected to be introduced this year by lawmakers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. We hope that you will follow these states' leads and implement sensible marijuana law reform in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel 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.

Alternatives to Incarceration for Marijuana Possession, available at <http://www.mpp.org/assets/pdfs/library/State-Decrim-Chart.pdf>.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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Testimony in Opposition to SB 2358 – Relating to Marijuana
February 13, 2014

TO: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

FR: Alan Shinn, Executive Director
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite A-259
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 545-3228 x29

Please accept this testimony in opposition to *SB 2358 – Relating to Marijuana* that establishes a civil violation for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana and a civil fine of not more than \$100 for adults over the age of 21 years.

This bill attempts to decriminalize marijuana to the point that it blurs the line with legalization. Under SB 2358, there is little or no risk to use or possess small amounts of marijuana which is still a Schedule I drug under federal law. It sends a conflicting message to youth and young adults under 21 years of age who may be contemplating experimenting with pakalolo. Yet it continues the legal sanctions against minors that may impact their futures in advance education, job opportunities, and military service.

SB 2358 presumes that marijuana is a harmless substance and presents no harmful effects to users. It effectively lowers the perception of harm and gives the green light to use to our youth. My agency provides substance abuse prevention and family treatment services. We have seen behavioral and psychological problems such as depression, mood swings, paranoia, and overall lower functioning associated with youth and adults who chronically use high potency marijuana. It is not a harmless substance for many chronic users and adolescents who are still maturing mentally, emotionally, and physically.

The current bill also does not include a public health approach to marijuana decriminalization. If it did, it would acknowledge that marijuana use will significantly increase especially among our youth and would include increased resources for substance abuse prevention and education, as well as treatment services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2358.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2358
RELATING TO MARIJUANA

By

Gary Shimabukuro

Laulima Hawaii

Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2014 at 2:50 PM

State Capitol, Room 224

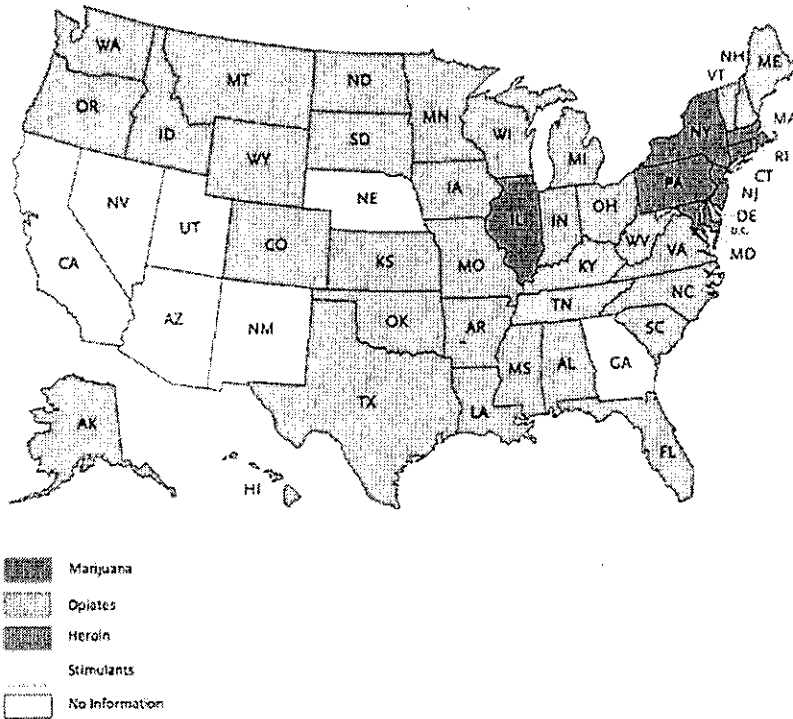
I do not support the passage of Senate Bill 2358 which would effectively decriminalize marijuana. Marijuana is already the number one reason for drug treatment admissions in Hawaii and many other states. (see map) This bill will add to the already large number of addicts in Hawaii, and will send the wrong message to our youth.

The following findings reveal the most recent data available from the Center for Disease Control. (CDC)

The following findings reveal the most recent data available from the ONDCP.

The map depicts the drug that addicts most commonly sought treatment for at primary treatment centers in each state.

The map depicts the drug that addicts most commonly sought treatment for at primary treatment centers in each state.



Hawaii: Marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Hawaii, followed closely by stimulants (including methamphetamine)

Note: Look at Colorado and Washington State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rev, Dennis Shields	the Religion of Jesus Church	Support	No

Comments: Aloha The time to tax and regulate cannabis is long overdue decriminalization is a step in the right direction Cannabis was never afforded the precedent that prohibition of alcohol set-- the requirement that the amendment process be used to prohibit it, so no one has been given their 14th amendment rights to due process or equal protection This stunning failure of the legislative process is now ripe for this bill to correct The term used to reference cannabis, the "M" word, shows that cannabis prohibition has always been a racist, sexist, Jim Crow law designed specifically to target ethnic minorities, and the very disproportionate arrest rates for minorities who use cannabis at similar rates to whites, prove that this is a unconstitutional despicable use of the color of law Further the great cry against taxation and regulation of cannabis is the untrue, fear-mongering speculation that such will make it more available for young folks is a blatant shamefaced lie Kids now have greater availability of cannabis than availability of tobacco or beer because card ID requirements limit their access however they can ask a friend or local dealer and they will NEVER be card ID'ed for cannabis purchase or for that matter any of the more dangerous that the dealer may leed young folks into using Therefore the best way to protect the kids is to tax and regulate cannabis and greatly diminish the black-marketer of a major portion of their trade and thus limit kids from this exposure. The economics of this are even greater justification to take this step now first it will lower law enforcement expenses, and unwise use of precious law enforcement resources, and court cost and calendar clogging trials for the state while generating much needed revenue, a win win win for the above reasons I urge you to adopt and pass this bill Aloha Rev. Dennis Shields

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:21 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2358 on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM*

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:21 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: alangorg@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2358 on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gorg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please stop putting people in jail for getting high. There is an overabundance of serious crime that needs all our attention and effort. Mahalo.

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SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS Senator Will Espero, Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Thursday, February 13, 2014 2:50 pm Conf Room 224 I strongly support decriminalization. The advantages of STOPPING the criminalization of small amounts of marijuana are calculable and would have immediate positive impact. The MAJORITY of Americans support decriminalization. The MAJORITY of HAWAIIANS support decriminalization. Support the MAJORITY! Mahalo for your cooperation!

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Steiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Legislators, I am a medical marijuana patient on the Big Island. I wholly support this bill as a way to stop the waste of resources used to currently prosecute marijuana possession. I would vote for complete legalization, but this is a good start! Many good lives are wasted by the prohibition, and once you have a bad record it is difficult to land the perfect job, get student loans, get housing, etc. The truth about the great benefits of cannabis marijuana are becoming more apparent every day, and it is time to take a step in the right direction! Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Sellers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Sellers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the bill, as I as a taxpayer do not want to keep paying \$5208.20 for each court appearance for each defendant that is brought up and in on marijuana charges. It is a waste of My Taxpayers money. Go catch a Meth Head or Rapist..

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgina Mckinley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB2358 I agree that this measure is a step in the right direction. I feel more strongly, however, that marijuana should be legalized, taxed, and regulated for adults aged 21 and over, for personal and/or recreational use, in the state of Hawaii.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hoku Cabebe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: May this bill serve as a back up to the common sense approach of SB2733 and as protection for anyone who falls outside the regulations thereof. I support a relaxing of punishment associated with personal marijuana use in small amounts. Especially when young mens' & womens' lives would otherwise be lawful save their marijuana use. Too many young lives are wasted in the criminal justice system. End it.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
daniel susott	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Legalize it better

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Luiten	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Right now, the punishments for using marijuana are far more harmful than the drug itself. Criminal records can have long term effects on a person's ability to be employed, their ability to get loans, to qualify for financial aid when going to school, to adopt children. It is cruel and unnecessary to saddle people who are caught with small amounts of marijuana with a criminal record. Research has proven that several legal drugs such as alcohol are vastly more dangerous and injurious to both the user and the victims of drug-related accidents and crimes. Compared to possession of marijuana – ice and violent crimes are much bigger problems. Our police should spend more time and resources going after violent crime or hard drugs. Please end this enormous and Puritanical waste of our tax dollars. Marijuana is not a dangerous drug, and there is not a single credible medical or scientific expert that has provided any evidence that it is, except prejudiced reports that the body of experts have discounted. Our current laws have ruined many lives by il-legitimatizing a relatively harmless drug and bringing many otherwise law-abiding citizens, especially youths, in contact with criminals. STOP THIS DAMAGE TO OUR CULTURE. The Earth is not flat, the moon is not made of green cheese, and Marijuana is NOT a dangerous drug. Let's regulate it as we do the much more dangerous "evil drug" alcohol!

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Right now, the punishments for using marijuana are far more harmful than the drug itself. Criminal records can have long term effects on a person's employability, their ability to get loans, to qualify for financial aid when going to school, to adopt children. It is cruel and unnecessary to saddle people who are caught with small amounts of marijuana with a criminal record.

2-12-14

I Kimberly Harrison support bills SB 2358 and SB 2733.

Please make possession of a small amount of marijuana a civil infraction, as opposed to a criminal charge.

Sincerely, Kimberly Harrison

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Hampton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Right now, the punishments for using marijuana are far more harmful than the drug itself. Criminal records can have long term effects on a person's employability, their ability to get loans, to qualify for financial aid when going to school, to adopt children. It is cruel and unnecessary to saddle people who are caught with small amounts of marijuana with a criminal record. Right now progressive, modernizing, forward-thinking states are doing exactly what this bill proposes. It's time for Hawaii to do the same and not leave its people behind with harmful, outdated laws.

Decriminalization allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes: • Decriminalizing possession of marijuana could save state and county governments in Hawai'i an estimated \$9 million annually. • Nationally, approximately \$8 billion is spent every year arresting and prosecuting individuals for marijuana violations. Almost 90% of these arrests are for marijuana possession only. Arrests for possession have increased over the last nine years in Hawaii. • Since 2004, possession arrests in Hawai'i have increased almost 50% and distribution arrests almost doubled. • There were 1,632 arrests for marijuana possession in 2010 (last data available.) • Compared to possession of marijuana – ice and violent crimes are much bigger problems. Our police should spend more time and resources going after violent crime or hard drugs. In Hawai'i marijuana laws do not impact all people equally. These penalties disproportionately affect young, low income, and minority individuals: • Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested than adults. • Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians. Far more harm results from the criminalization of marijuana than from marijuana use itself: • Convicted marijuana offenders: Are denied federal student aid; Lose their professional licenses; Encounter barriers to employment, housing, and adoption. Decriminalization does not increase marijuana use: • There is no evidence to support claims that criminalization reduces use or decriminalization increases use. • Studies find that decriminalizing marijuana has had no effect on marijuana use among young people. • Harsh marijuana laws do not deter use. • Decriminalization does not allow anyone to sell marijuana, nor does it allow anyone to purchase or possess marijuana. • Marijuana is not a "gateway drug". The National Academy of Sciences found, "There is no conclusive evidence that the drug effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent abuse of other illicit drugs." Hawai'i supports decriminalization and it VOTES prove it: • Today, 77% of Hawaii voters think that jail time is inappropriate for marijuana possession. Hawai'i should join the other states in the United States in decriminalizing marijuana: • 14 states have already decriminalized marijuana: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Rhode Island, plus in cities and counties in nine other states. Cultivation and

distribution remain criminal offenses. • In these states, the average possession for treating possession as a civil matter with a fine is 1.46 ounces. One ounce or less is the most common amount. Only Connecticut and North Carolina have decriminalized marijuana for less than an ounce (both are at ½ ounce or less). • In November 2012, Colorado and Washington went a step further and passed voter initiatives to tax and regulate marijuana for recreational use. Federal laws do not stand in the way: • Nothing in the Constitution or in federal law prohibits states from having penalties that differ from federal law.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Weyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mojo Mustapha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Decriminalization would allow police to spend money on serious and violent crimes and would save state and county governments in Hawai'i an estimated \$9 million annually.(1) It has been very frustrating to try to call the police as we did, for a fraud case, which is a serious crime and then be told that the police cannot pursue the case properly because of a lack of manpower and resources, which are currently spent on marijuana enforcement. Arrests for possession have increased over the last nine years in Hawaii. Since 2004, possession arrests in Hawai'i have increased almost 50% and distribution arrests almost doubled.(1) There were 1,632 arrests for marijuana possession in 2010 (last data available.) Compared to possession of marijuana – ice and violent crimes are much bigger problems. Our police should spend more time and resources going after violent crime or hard drugs. In Hawai'i marijuana laws do not impact all people equally: Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested than adults.(1) Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians.(1)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 10:05 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: konabakers@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2358 on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM
Attachments: SB2358.docx

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please stop punishing people for being human

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Right now, the punishments for using marijuana are far more harmful than the drug itself. Criminal records can have long term effects on a person's employability, their ability to get loans, to qualify for financial aid when going to school, to adopt children. It is cruel and unnecessary to saddle people who are caught with small amounts of marijuana with a criminal record.

Decriminalization allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes:

- Decriminalizing possession of marijuana could save state and county governments in Hawai'i an estimated \$9 million annually.(1)
- Nationally, approximately \$8 billion is spent every year arresting and prosecuting individuals for marijuana violations.(2) Almost 90% of these arrests are for marijuana possession only. (3)

Arrests for possession have increased over the last nine years in Hawaii.

- Since 2004, possession arrests in Hawai'i have increased almost 50% and distribution arrests almost doubled.(1)
- There were 1,632 arrests for marijuana possession in 2010 (last data available.)
- Compared to possession of marijuana – ice and violent crimes are much bigger problems. Our police should spend more time and resources going after violent crime or hard drugs.

In Hawai'i marijuana laws do not impact all people equally:

- Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested than adults.(1)
- Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians.(1)

Far more harm results from the criminalization of marijuana than from marijuana use itself:

- Convicted marijuana offenders:
 - Are denied federal student aid;
 - Lose their professional licenses;
 - Encounter barriers to employment, housing, and adoption.
- These penalties disproportionately affect young, low income, and minority individuals.(2)

Decriminalization does not increase marijuana use:

- There is no evidence to support claims that criminalization reduces use or decriminalization increases use.(4)
- Studies find that decriminalizing marijuana has had no effect on marijuana use among young people.(5)
- Harsh marijuana laws do not deter use.(6)
- Decriminalization does not allow anyone to sell marijuana, nor does it allow anyone to purchase or possess marijuana.
- Marijuana is not a "gateway drug". The National Academy of Sciences found, "There is no conclusive evidence that the drug effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent abuse of other illicit drugs."(8)

Hawai'i supports decriminalization:

- Today, 77% of Hawaii voters think that jail time is inappropriate for marijuana possession.

Hawai'i should join the other states in the United States in decriminalizing marijuana:

- 14 states have already decriminalized marijuana: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Rhode Island, plus in cities and counties in nine other states. Cultivation and distribution remain criminal offenses.
- In these states, the average possession for treating possession as a civil matter with a fine is 1.46 ounces. One ounce or less is the most common amount. Only Connecticut and North Carolina have decriminalized marijuana for less than an ounce (both are at ½ ounce or less).
- In November 2012, Colorado and Washington went a step further and passed voter initiatives to tax and regulate marijuana for recreational use.

Federal laws do not stand in the way:

- Nothing in the Constitution or in federal law prohibits states from having penalties that differ from federal law.

Studies cited:

1. Nixon, David. Update to: Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization in Hawai'i. Public Policy Center: University of Hawai'i, Dec 2012. <www.dpfhi.org>
2. Duncan, Cynthia. "The Need for Change: An Economic Analysis of Marijuana Policy." Connecticut Law Review 14 (July 2009)
3. United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation's combined Uniform Reports. Crime in the United States: Table: Arrest for Drug Abuse Violations. U.S. Department of Justice: Washington, DC. 2010.
4. Reinerman, Cohen, and Kaal. "The Limited Relevance of Drug Policy: Cannabis in Amsterdam and San Francisco." American Journal of Public Health 94.5 (May 2004)
5. Williams, Jenny. "The Effects of Price and Policy on Marijuana Use: What Can Be Learned from the Australian Experience?" Health Economics 13 (2004): 123-137.
6. Connecticut. Connecticut Law Review Commission. Drug Policy in Connecticut and Strategy Options: Report to the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut Assembly. State Capitol: Hartford, 1997.
7. QMark Research & Polling. November 19 –December 4, 2012. Survey of 603 adults statewide, MOE +/- 4%
8. National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base". National Academy Press: Washington, DC, 5, 6. 1999.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Tischler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As public attitudes toward cannabis are rapidly changing it is important that our Hawai'i legislators echo the societal shift. Cannabis decrim no longer reflects a "soft on drugs" position or "political suicide" for elected officials. Of the Hawai'i registered voters 75% said that if their state legislator voted to decriminalize cannabis, it would either have no impact on their vote or it would make them more likely to vote for that legislator. Fourteen states have already decriminalized cannabis and two states have legalized the drug. Decriminalization of cannabis has not led to mass addiction nor has crime increased. Cannabis criminalization on the other hand has not reduced the use of cannabis. However, it has inflicted appalling damage to native Hawai'ians and to youth. Arrest and possible incarceration has ruined the lives and careers of many. A cannabis arrest denies a person to obtain a student loan or may be used in denying housing and adoption. The advantages of cannabis decriminalization are many. Our police could be used more efficiently by having local enforcement focus on serious and violent crimes. It will unclog our courts and improve operation and efficiency with fewer back logs and cost savings. And, in these economic times we will save the taxpayers millions by treating cannabis as a civil offense. Please let's make Hawai'i the next state to decriminalize cannabis for adults. The time is NOW! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this very important bill. Andrea Tischler Hilo, HI

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Monday, February 10, 2014

2:50PM

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Support – SB2358 – Relating to Marijuana

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs,

This bill attempts to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. This is an obviously good thing, with no perceptible downside. Unlike many issues relating to marijuana, which are often shrouded in uncertainty, decriminalization has the benefit of decades of hard data showing that it prevents wasted time and money on marijuana arrests and prosecutions without causing an increase in use.

Studies have consistently shown that decriminalization does not increase drug use.¹ It does not increase drug use in adults, it does not increase drug use among children. Criminal punishments for marijuana possession can cause long-term effects that will destroy a young person's life and their future. A drug possession charge prevents a person from getting *any* federal financial aid to go to college. A drug charge must be reported in many states when you apply for a job. Drug charges can come back to haunt a person many years later when they apply for professional licenses or attempt to adopt children. This damage is real, and it is happening here in Hawaii every day. We must act to protect our children from it.

Decriminalization protects our children from having criminal records for possession of marijuana. It does not increase use of marijuana. The only rational *or* compassionate choice is to pass this bill decriminalizing simple possession. To hold the bill is to base policy on baseless superstition rather than science and compassion.

Mahalo for your time and your consideration,

Rafael Kennedy
91-1018 Kaiiau Ave.
Kapolei, HI 96707

¹An excellent summary of this data is available from MPP here:
http://www.mpp.org/assets/pdfs/library/Decrim_Teen-Use-Analysis.pdf

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daryl Matthews	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a psychiatric physician with 35 years of experience working closely with the criminal justice system. It is now widely recognized that criminalizing marijuana users has not decreased use and has had a host of negative consequences both here in Hawaii and nationally. On the other hand, countries that have decriminalized marijuana use, such as Portugal and the Netherlands, have not experienced an increase in use. Recent polling indicates that the majority of people in Hawaii support decriminalization. Our scarce criminal justice resources should not be devoted to what is essentially a public health problem. The Senate should recognize this and pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Respectfully submitted, Daryl Matthews, M.D., Ph.D .

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luke Sarvis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chuck Needham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Ones, I am a disabled Vietnam Veteran since my body is 67 years so I receive SS benefits also. Even though Medical Marijuana is not VA approved. I have used Cannabis medicinally for years to help me cope with service connected PTSD, neck and back pain. At times I have needed to use concentrates to deal with severe episodes. I find extracts more effective pain relievers and even with concentrates I experience less undesirable side effects than pharmaceutical medicines. Taxing and regulating marijuana is the right decision for Hawaii no matter if you are in favor of marijuana or against it. This bill treats marijuana the way that we treat alcohol. I experience less dulling and side effects from Cannabis use than alcohol. Even if you believe that marijuana is detrimental, a system of taxation and regulation is the best way to keep users safe, to reduce the social costs of enforcement, and to prevent burdening recreational users with criminal records that cause long term harm.

To the Honorable Hawaii Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Committee.

Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair
Sen. Brickwood Galuteria
Sen. Josh Green
Sen. Sam Slom

My senators, I have wavered on my position of recreational Cannabis use for many years; with much discernment, self-contemplation and research, I now support the legal and recreational use of Cannabis, commonly called Marijuana or Pakalolo, I support it with certain restrictions. I urge you to support SB2733, as it would have a positive impact on our economy, it would make space in our correctional facilities and much more. I support this bill fully, though I take issue with this bill restricting Cannabis to those aged 21 and over; at age 18, one is considered to be an adult and able to make their own lawful decisions, they may use tobacco products, to which smoked Cannabis shares many similarities, but more importantly, at age 18, one can join the armed forces and stand the risk to die for this country, receive severe injury for this country, carry and operate a firearm for this country, and yet this person would be prohibited from using Cannabis upon their return from war!? I support every aspect of this bill, except for the age restriction. If this committee disagrees with my opinion on age restriction, I still urge you all to pass it this bill, Mahalo.

-With great honor and respect,
Isaiah Nahaku Okeola Chong

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: SB2358 is an improvement on our present situation, however I think it is time to have legalization. Marijuana has been unjustly and unfairly demonized. It has a long history of use medicinally and spiritually. The crime has been our government incarcerating our citizens for using or growing marijuana. Please do all you can to stop the "witch hunt." Stop the helicopters flying over our homes searching for plants. Stop filling up our prisons with people on marijuana charges and who did not harm to others.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 4:06 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2358 on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Right now, the punishments for using marijuana are far more harmful than the drug itself. Criminal records can have long term effects on a person's employability, their ability to get loans, to qualify for financial aid when going to school, to adopt children. It is cruel and unnecessary to saddle people who are caught with small amounts of marijuana with a criminal record. Decriminalization allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes. □ Today, 77% of Hawaii voters think that jail time is inappropriate for marijuana possession. Hawai'i should join the other states in the United States in decriminalizing marijuana: □ 14 states have already decriminalized marijuana: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Rhode Island, plus in cities and counties in nine other states. Cultivation and distribution remain criminal offenses. □ In these states, the average possession for treating possession as a civil matter with a fine is 1.46 ounces. One ounce or less is the most common amount. Only Connecticut and North Carolina have decriminalized marijuana for less than an ounce (both are at ½ ounce or less). □ In November 2012, Colorado and Washington went a step further and passed voter initiatives to tax and regulate marijuana for recreational use.

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2358
RELATING TO MARIJUANA

By
Keith Kamita

Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2014 at 2:50 PM
State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Today I am testifying as a private citizen; however I have 27 years of experience in the regulation and enforcement of controlled substance laws in the State of Hawaii. I **cannot support passage of** Senate Bill 2358 that proposes to make possession of one ounce or less of marijuana a civil fine of \$100 that will be deposited into the State General Fund. The use of illegal drugs should not be dealt with like a traffic violation where a suspect can just pay a fine unlimited times with it never becoming a criminal violation. The Department feels that this sends the wrong message to the citizens and youth of Hawaii, that smoking and possessing under one ounce of marijuana is not a big deal its not a criminal violation its "its just a fine." If Senate Bill 2358 were to pass drug dealers could hold and covertly sell under one ounce bags of marijuana and if caught in possession of the one ounce bag of marijuana just pay the \$100 fine from the profits he made from selling his other one ounce bags of marijuana worth(street value) \$300-\$400.

SENATE BILL 2358
February 13, 2014
Page 2

The Department feels that the existing language in section 706-622.5 gives the courts the latitude to sentence the first time drug offender to probation and even expungement of their criminal records if they do not re-offend.

For these reasons I cannot support passage of Senate Bill 2358 and ask that it be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riki Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: If this goes through, Hawaii will be worse off.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nina O	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support this bill.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Rosa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to the legalization of marijuana as I feel that this drug is the gateway to other illegal drugs and will increase OVUII, medical costs associated with cancer, etc.

From: Isaiah Chong <isaiahchong@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 1:39 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: SB2358 Opposition Testimony

To the Honorable Hawaii Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee,

Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair
Sen. Brickwood Galuteria
Sen. Josh Green
Sen. Sam Slom

My senators, I have waived on my position of recreational Cannabis use for many years; with much discernment, self-contemplation and research, I now support the legal and recreational use of Cannabis, commonly called Marijuana or Pakalolo, I support it with certain restrictions. The bill in which I am submitting testimony here for is SB2358, which decriminalizes Cannabis use, I cannot, in good conscience, support this bill. If passed, it imposes a fine for Cannabis use. This bill makes the users still violate the law and will make them face a fine. I will fully support (and submit supporting testimony) for SB2733, as it will fully legalize Cannabis in a restricted amount and allow its users to use it without violating a civil law. Sirs and ma'am, I ask for your sole support on SB2733.

-With great honor and respect,
Isaiah Nahaku Okeola Chong
Ewa Beach, HI

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riki Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: If this goes through, Hawaii will be worse off.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Au	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:44 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: elecbuyer@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2358 on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM*

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Katto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB2358

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keth Fetterhoff	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: I support any action towards decriminalization.

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I can hardly believe you are trying to go backwards in helping legitimate medical marijuana patients get the help they need. If YOU do not need medical marijuana it is not right for YOU to make the decisions that hurt patients who need their medicine. PLEASE don't make things more difficult for us. AREN'T YOUR PRISONS FULL ENOUGH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!! Help us legitimate medical marijuana patients. PLEASE don't work against us!!! Thank you

SB2358

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 13, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Easterling	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I live in Hawaii and I'm a 63 year old who started and ran his own business for thirty years, raised a family, owns a half dozen apartment houses and a half dozen single family homes, and a life long martial artist. Forty four years ago I was arrested and jailed for marijuana offenses. I thought it was idiotic then and I think it's idiotic now. If we can't just legalize marijuana, please minimize the punishment for small amounts. Aloha, Pat