

SB 2733

RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Legalizes the personal use of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

PSM/CPN, JDL/WAM

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSHUA WISCH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1530
FAX NO: (808) 587-1584

To: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2014
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. No. 2733, Relating to Marijuana

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 2733 and provides the following comments for your consideration.

S.B. 2733 decriminalizes the personal use, possession, and transfer of small amounts of marijuana. The bill also establishes a licensing procedure for marijuana establishments, to be administered by the Department, and explicitly states that marijuana establishments are taxable.

First, the Department appreciates the recognition that the taxation of the business of marijuana is an important aspect of its decriminalization. However, the Department notes that without a separate and additional tax on the marijuana industry there is no need for a separate license to be issued from the Department of Taxation unless a new tax is imposed.

The Department does issue licenses to participants in highly regulated industries, such as the alcohol and tobacco industries. However, in these cases, the additional scrutiny by the Department is due to the specific taxes imposed upon those industries. The current measure does not propose a marijuana specific tax; therefore, it is not necessary to have the Department involved in marijuana specific licensing. The Department suggests that marijuana licensing be administered by an agency with direct subject matter relevancy to marijuana.

Second, S.B. 2733 explicitly states that the marijuana business is subject to income and

excise taxes imposed by the state. The Department notes that this provision is not necessary to tax the marijuana industry. Both the income tax and general excise tax are broad in scope and encompass income from nearly all sources. The marijuana industry and the related transactions would be subject to the provisions of Title 14 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, regardless of whether there is language that specifically states that it is subject to tax.

Given the desire for an explicit statement of taxability, the Department suggests revised language to ensure clarity. On page 16 of the bill, in the section relating to taxes, the Department suggests replacing the current language with the following:

"A marijuana establishment shall be subject to all applicable taxes imposed by Title 14."

or,

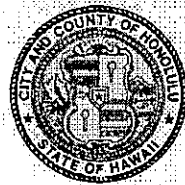
"Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to exempt a marijuana establishment from any tax or duty imposed by law."

The proposed amendment will make clear that marijuana establishments are subject to tax in the same manner as other businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS H. KEALONA
CHIEF

DAVE M. RAJIHIRO
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
The Honorable Rosályn H. Baker, Chair
and Members
Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Baker and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2733, 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. 2733, Relating to Marijuana.

This bill seeks to legalize the personal use of marijuana and to legalize licensed marijuana establishments.

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 the brain is 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.

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members

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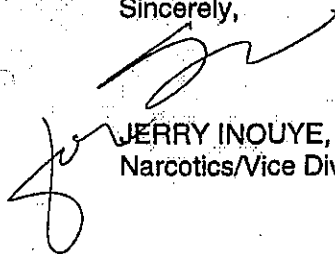
A study by the University of California, Los Angeles, found that the more medical marijuana dispensaries and delivery services a city has, the more its residents use marijuana, regardless of whether or not they have a medical reason. Opening marijuana dispensaries will increase the availability and misuse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

Legalizing marijuana sends the wrong message to Hawaii's young people. Legalization is inconsistent to our long-standing efforts to keep them drug-free.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2733, Relating to Marijuana.

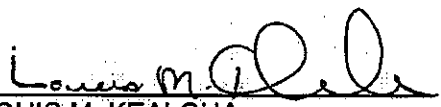
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



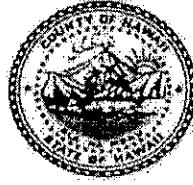
JERRY INOUE, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubajiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

February 10, 2014

Senator Will Espero
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Roslyn H. Baker
Chairperson and Committee Member
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 2733 Relating to Marijuana

Dear Senators Espero and Baker:

The Hawai'i Police Department strongly opposes passage of Senate Bill 2733, relating to Marijuana. The stated intent of this legislation is to legalize personal use of Marijuana and require licenses to operate Marijuana establishments as well as to set forth taxation on Marijuana.

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. The Marijuana growers continue to utilize genetic modification as a means of increasing THC content in their marijuana crops producing not only more potency but also an increase in production of the size and yield of the plants.

It seems somewhat odd that the State and County governments in Hawai'i are continuously restricting the availability and use of tobacco products to include e-cigarettes, 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.

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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. Additionally, 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.

This proposal describes critics of drug legalization as being concerned that lifting prohibition on illegal drugs like marijuana will increase crime and make streets less safe. It goes on to cite a 2011 study conducted by the RAND Corp. in which the study found crime increased after the forced closure of hundreds of marijuana dispensaries in the Los Angeles area. The results of this study are used to support the idea that legalization of marijuana sales by law-abiding corporations instead of by criminals has the potential to end a major source of crime on the streets. If one were to rely on this study alone, it would seem to support this proposal's suggestion that marijuana legalization would have a positive effect on crime; however, this proposal fails to mention this particular **study was retracted by the RAND Corp.** after it was determined the **study was flawed** in that pertinent relevant data, crime data from the Los Angeles Police Department, was not included in the study.

This proposal seeks to legalize "personal use" of marijuana and defines "personal use" as: an amount of marijuana not exceeding one ounce that is used for private, personal, or recreational purposes by persons age twenty-one years or older. The term personal use includes display, possession, **sale**, transport, **transfer**, or processing of marijuana or marijuana products. Furthermore, subsection (e) reads: the **transfer** or **sale** of one ounce or less of marijuana with or without remuneration to a person who is twenty-one years of age or older is permitted.

Basically, this portion of the bill seeks to allow persons twenty-one years and older to consume, possess, sell, transfer, transport, or process marijuana or marijuana products, in an amount of one ounce or less of marijuana with no restrictions as to where the marijuana consumption, possession, sale, transfer, or transport can take place. This causes great concern for law enforcement and regardless of their age, to make it legal for anyone to **sell** and **transfer** marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, is a clear and blatant violation of federal and state laws and goes against the very grain of law

Re: Senate Bill 2733 Relating to Marijuana
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enforcement officials' duties and responsibilities. The distribution of marijuana, which includes the **sale** and **transfer**, remains illegal as defined under Sections 712-1247, 712-1248, 712-1249.5, and 712-1249.5 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as amended, and law enforcement will not condone the act of distributing controlled substances in any quantity.

Subsection (d) reads: "The possession, growing, processing, or transporting of not more than six marijuana plants, with three or fewer being mature, flowering plants, and possession of the marijuana produced by the plants on the premises where the plants are grown shall not be subject to criminal prosecution; provided that the growing takes place in an enclosed and locked space and is not conducted openly or publicly, and that the plants are not made available for sale." This subsection contradicts the amount of one ounce or less allowed under the "personal use" definition. Using the DEA standard that a typical marijuana plant produces approximately one pound of dried marijuana per growing season, one can reasonably surmise three mature marijuana plants, the amount of mature marijuana plants allowed under this proposal, **would produce three pounds (48 ounces) of dried marijuana per growing season.** With three growing seasons per year, that equates to nine pounds of marijuana (144 ounces) per year. Keep in mind the three immature marijuana plants allowed under this proposal were not factored in. **This is a clear contradiction to the "personal use" definition.**

This proposal also seeks to require licensing to operate marijuana establishments and subject marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes and proposes the Department of Taxation be responsible for developing rules and procedures governing the licensing of the proposed marijuana facilities, labeling requirements for marijuana products, health and safety regulations and standards for the manufacture of marijuana products and the cultivation of marijuana, and security requirements for the premises of marijuana establishments. The mission of the Hawaii Department of Taxation is to "administer the tax laws for the State of Hawaii in a consistent, uniform, and fair manner." They are not versed in the federal and state statutes pertaining to marijuana; not trained to develop rules and procedures for marijuana facilities; nor qualified to oversee the other proposed tasks such as developing health and safety regulations and standards for the manufacture of marijuana products and the cultivation of marijuana.

In summary, relaxing the marijuana laws and legalizing marijuana in any quantity sends an unfair message that recreational marijuana use is acceptable, harmless, and tolerable and contributes to the misconception that there are no dangers associated with marijuana use. In addition to conveying the message that marijuana is harmless, legalizing marijuana, even in one ounce quantities, for recreational purposes only, will make marijuana more easily accessible by our youth, the same youth that we, as

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parents, teachers, and law enforcement, teach to, "***say no to drugs***" because drugs are unequivocally bad for them. What kind of mixed message would we be sending to our young impressionable youth if we allow the legalization of marijuana? Will we now have to change our teachings to, "***say no to drugs, except marijuana***"?

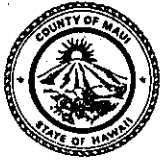
The medical marijuana program, governed by specific rules and procedures, is already in place for those individuals deemed by physicians to need medicinal marijuana in order to improve upon their quality of life. The program restricts availability to those who are in need of it for medical purposes and availability of marijuana should remain restricted to those who need it for medical reasons.

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. 2733.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul K. Ferreira", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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
(808) 244-6400
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GARY A. YABUTA
CHIEF OF POLICE

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

February 10, 2014

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

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Commerce
and Consumer Protection
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill No. 2733 - Relating to Marijuana

Dear Chairs Espero and Baker, and Members of the Committees:

The Maui Police Department strongly **OPPOSES** Senate Bill No. 2733. This bill legalizes the personal use of marijuana in a specified quantity. It requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. It also subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

This bill will send a wrong message to our island community. We, as a community, should not move to legalize a drug that can cause as much harm to our quality of life as did the legalization of alcohol. We should not think about filling our tax coffers with funds from the taxation of marijuana, but we should look at what we could potentially loose as a society. If we follow this path, we can never go back.

There are numerous studies that have been cited regarding the social illnesses associated with the legalization of alcohol. These same social illnesses are already happening in states that have tried this experiment with the legalization of marijuana. Recently, according to a new study from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health published online in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, "fatal car accidents that involved marijuana have tripled in the last decade, which suggests that the issue will likely become worse as more states push for the legalization of marijuana."

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Ingovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

February 10, 2014

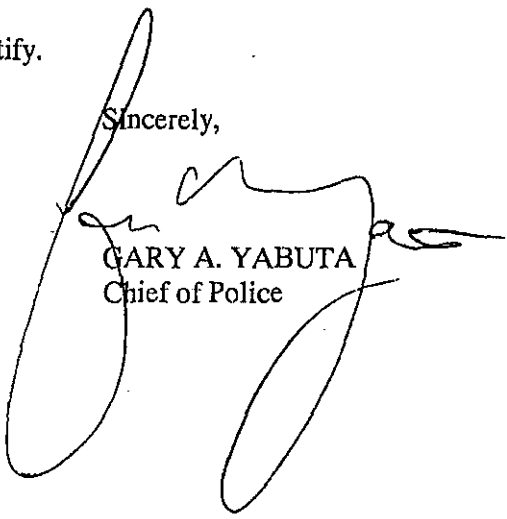
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This proposed legalization will also threaten to hurt the youth of our community, as it will make marijuana more accessible. With many laws regulating alcohol which are already difficult to enforce, the added problem of having marijuana readily available in people's homes, because of this bill, will cause more children to be exposed to this drug. We would be naïve to think that children with adult family members using marijuana would never have access to it.

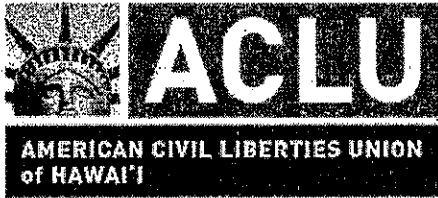
With these concerns, the Maui Police Department requests that you oppose SB 2733.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



GARY A. YABUTA
Chief of Police



Committees: Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and
Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2014, 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2733, Relating to
Marijuana

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of S.B.
2733, which seeks to legalize, tax, and regulate small amounts of marijuana for adult use.

S.B. 2733 provides a safe and smart alternative to marijuana prohibition. 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 penalties for low-level marijuana possession will prevent
thousands of people from becoming needlessly entangled in the criminal justice system,
eliminate many collateral consequences that flow from marijuana arrests, and allow Hawaii to
reinvest the money it saves for important community needs.

S.B. 2733 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. 2733.

Legalizing marijuana for persons over 21 years of age or older and regulating and taxing it in a
manner similar to alcohol will (1) redirect law enforcement resources to more serious threats to
public safety; (2) generate significant new revenue for Hawaii that can be used for healthcare,
drug prevention, public health education and other community concerns; (3) reduce the number

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
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Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs;
Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 13, 2014
Page 2 of 3

of unreasonable arrests for marijuana possession and (4) reduce the targeting of communities disproportionately impacted by Hawaii's current marijuana laws.

S.B. 2733 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.

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. By legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana, Hawaii could conservatively add an additional estimated \$11 million in yearly revenues.¹ Regulating and taxing marijuana similarly to alcohol takes marijuana sales out of the hands of criminals and puts them behind the counters of legitimate and regulated businesses. This will not only generate revenue, but also will make it more difficult for teenagers to access and consume marijuana.

The legalization of marijuana for persons over 21 years of age or older 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. Arrest for possession of small amounts of marijuana is 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.

¹ David Nixon, *Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization and Legalization for Hawaii*, January 2013 available at http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/econreptmarijuana1_2013.pdf.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs;
Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 13, 2014
Page 3 of 3

The legalization of marijuana for persons over 21 years of age or older will reduce the targeting of communities disproportionately impacted by Hawaii's current laws.

Hawaii's marijuana laws overly impact males less than 25 years of age and people of native Hawaiian descent. These groups are arrested in numbers disproportionate to their share of the population.²

Voters in Colorado and Washington 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. S.B. 2733 is substantively similar to the initiatives passed in Colorado and Washington. Similar proposals are expected to be introduced this year by lawmakers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The ACLU of Hawaii supports S.B. 2733 in its effort to create sensible drug 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.

² *Id.*

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2733 – Relating to Marijuana
February 13, 2014

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

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, 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 2733 – Relating to Marijuana*, which permits the personal use of marijuana in specified quantity by adults over 21 and would also allow the growing, manufacturing and retailing of marijuana products which would be regulated and taxed by the State.

Hawaii is not ready for legalized pakalolo. It is premature to consider legalization without monitoring closely how Colorado and Washington implement their marijuana laws. While the federal government has taken a "watch and monitor" position on Colorado and Washington, it is clear that the two states must meet specific health and safety and other standards to avoid federal intervention. State marijuana legalization laws are still in conflict with Federal laws on the production, sale, distribution, and use of marijuana.

Contrary to the recent marijuana polls both nationally and locally, most people would not be in favor of marijuana legalization if they had "all the facts". The SAM Hawaii (*Smart Approaches to Marijuana*) coalition was formed to educate the public on the negative impact of permissive marijuana policies on the health, safety, and environmental well-being of people based on science, public health principles, and common sense.

Many people are unaware and uninformed about the impact legalized marijuana would have on their lives, their children, families and community. Reports from both states indicate there are significant problems. For example, drugged driving arrest rates have skyrocketed. Treatment referrals for marijuana abuse and addiction by youth have dramatically increased as well. Expulsion rates for marijuana use in schools have significantly increased.

My agency provides substance abuse prevention and family treatment services. We have seen behavioral and psychological problems such as depression, mood swings, and 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 many adolescents who are still maturing mentally, emotionally, and physically.

The science is emerging on the health and psychological effects of marijuana and it use can be linked to:

- Addiction
- Heart and lung complications
- Mental illness
- Car crashes
- IQ loss and poor school achievement
- Poor quality of life outcomes
- Poor job performance

Regarding the retailing of marijuana, the City of Los Angeles had significant problems regulating the proliferation of marijuana retail outlets and experienced the lack of controls, increased crime and violence, and the lowered quality of life in the neighborhoods they established themselves in. Marijuana dispensaries warehouse large quantities of drugs and are primarily cash businesses making them prime targets for criminal activity, much like liquor stores.

The sale of edible marijuana-infused products that mimic commonly known snack foods and brands including candy, soda pop, and cookies, pose serious danger to young children. Marijuana sales advertising is blatant and distasteful drawing criticism from legitimate businesses.

Taxing and regulating the sale of marijuana would most likely increase state revenues. However, from our experience with the legal drugs, alcohol and tobacco, the social costs of increased law enforcement, state regulation, treatment and health and welfare related issues will far exceed any tax revenues gained.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2733.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
745 Fort Street, Suite 303
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 532-6232
Fax (808) 532-6004

February 13, 2014

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair – Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs; Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair; and
members of the committee
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair – Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection; Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair and members of the
committee

From: Arkie Koehl/Carol McNamee — Co-chairmen, Public Policy Committee -
MADD Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 2733 – Relating to Marijuana

I am Arkie Koehl, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii organization of Mothers Against Drunk Driving to present information about the use of marijuana relating to operating a vehicle. MADD believes that the passage of Senate Bill 2733 will put more impaired drivers on the road – and quite possibly more young impaired drivers.

MADD Hawaii worked for many years to pass legislation to include scheduled drugs in the impaired driving statutes of the state because of the knowledge that it is not only the drug alcohol that results in carnage on our roads and highways. SB2733 will allow the drug THC to become more available to the general public. Other than alcohol, THC is most often found in the systems of impaired drivers in fatal crashes.

In recent years, Hawaii has lead the nation in the percent of traffic crashes and fatalities that are alcohol related. We remain in the top three or four states in this measure of percent of total fatalities that are alcohol related. In the four year period, 2007 to 2010, the number of drivers in fatal crashes who tested positive for alcohol averaged 40%. In addition, almost one quarter of the total number of drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for other drugs (23%). Considered together, almost half the drivers tested positive for either alcohol or other drugs (49%). THC is the substance most frequently implicated in these deadly collisions.

A real concern to MADD is that young drivers are the most involved in drug-related crashes. The highest percentage (36%) of drivers involved in fatal crashes, who tested positive for drugs, were under the age of 21. From age 21 to age 34, the drivers testing positive average about 26%. Pedestrians who test positive for drugs also have significant involvement in highway fatality statistics. (*DOH statistics*)

Hawaii already sees a high rate of drug involvement in fatal crashes. Many more individuals are seriously injured in drug and alcohol related crashes but that data is not readily available. MADD believes that making marijuana more easily available to the public, and especially to youth, will increase death and injury on our roads. Although SB2733 restricts the sale of marijuana to individuals age 21 or older, we see no prohibition about people giving marijuana to a minor under 21. The brain research which shows harmful consequences for use of alcohol under the age of 21 also extends to other substances as well. SB1733 provides little deterrent for teens and young adults to become users of marijuana.

A recent study from the Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention at Columbia University reveals that drugs are playing an increasing role in highway fatalities across the country. Drugged driving accounted for 28 percent of highway deaths in 2010 versus 12 percent in 1999. Marijuana was the main drug involved in this increase. The combination of alcohol and marijuana has serious consequences. Drivers who are under the influence of this combination of drugs increase their crash risk to 24 times that of a sober person. Those who consume alcohol only, according to the study, have an increased crash risk of 13 times that of a sober person.

A researcher from the Drug Policy Institute at the University of Florida reports that a national highway drug fatality percentage of 20% translates into about 6,761 deaths, 440,000 injuries and \$59.9 billion in costs each year.

Thank you for this opportunity to share MADD's concerns about Senate bill 2733.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julius Lannutti	NORML HI	Support	Yes

Comments: I would like to argue that marijuana is the safest recreational drug known to mankind. Even coffee can cause an overdose... I will only present one piece of evidence but there is so much more. Please don't let Hawaii fall behind in the growing legal marijuana market. Hawaii should fully support further medical research, legal growing options and more, Marijuana can be a huge boom to medicine and a safe recreational drug option. Marijuana is safer than alcohol and can be an INCREDIBLE WINDFALL TO HAWAII if DONE LEGALLY.... the current law forces it to be done illegal and we will fall further behind in this 'technology', 'market', 'research', 'recreational opportunity' 'business' and 'medicine' If you look at this UN report:

http://www.unodc.org/doc/wdr/Chp1_C.pdf 4655 tons were SEIZED. Multiply 20 dollars a gram market value with 28 grams in an ounce and 16 ounces in a pound and 2000 lbs in a ton by 4655 tons that were SEIZED BY AUTHORITIES.. that is 83.5 billion dollar market there alone. the actual market is MULTIPLES HIGHER THAN THIS. its not going away, this is for real. THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY STUDIES THAT POPPED UP ON A GOOGLE SEARCH>>> PLEASE READ!

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/05/060526083353.htm> People who smoke marijuana--even heavy, long-term marijuana users--do not appear to be at increased risk of developing lung cancer, according to a study to be presented at the American Thoracic Society International Conference on May 23rd. Marijuana smoking also did not appear to increase the risk of head and neck cancers, such as cancer of the tongue, mouth, throat, or esophagus, the study found. The findings were a surprise to the researchers. "We expected that we would find that a history of heavy marijuana use--more than 500-1,000 uses--would increase the risk of cancer from several years to decades after exposure to marijuana," said the senior researcher, Donald Tashkin, M.D., Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in Los Angeles. The study looked at 611 people in Los Angeles County who developed lung cancer, 601 who developed cancer of the head or neck regions, and 1,040 people without cancer who were matched on age, gender, and neighborhood. The researchers used the University of Southern California Tumor Registry, which is notified as soon as a patient in Los Angeles County receives a diagnosis of cancer. They limited the study to people under age 60. "If you were born prior to 1940, you were unlikely to be exposed to marijuana use during your teens and 20s--the time of peak marijuana use," Dr. Tashkin said. People who were exposed to marijuana use in their youth are just now getting to the age when cancer typically starts to develop, he added. Subjects were asked about lifetime use of marijuana, tobacco and alcohol, as well as other drugs, their diet, occupation, family history of cancer and socioeconomic status. The subjects' reported use of marijuana was similar to that found in other surveys, Dr. Tashkin noted.

The heaviest smokers in the study had smoked more than 22,000 marijuana cigarettes, or joints, while moderately heavy smokers had smoked between 11,000 to 22,000 joints. Even these smokers did not have an increased risk of developing cancer. People who smoked more marijuana were not at any increased risk compared with those who smoked less marijuana or none at all. The study found that 80% of lung cancer patients and 70% of patients with head and neck cancer had smoked tobacco, while only about half of patients with both types of cancer smoked marijuana. There was a clear association between smoking tobacco and cancer. The study found a 20-fold increased risk of lung cancer in people who smoked two or more packs of cigarettes a day. The more tobacco a person smoked, the greater the risk of developing both lung cancer and head and neck cancers, findings that were consistent with many previous studies. The new findings are surprising for several reasons, Dr. Tashkin said. Previous studies have shown that marijuana tar contains about 50% higher concentrations of chemicals linked to lung cancer, compared with tobacco tar, he noted. Smoking a marijuana cigarette deposits four times more tar in the lungs than smoking an equivalent amount of tobacco. "Marijuana is packed more loosely than tobacco, so there's less filtration through the rod of the cigarette, so more particles will be inhaled," Dr. Tashkin said. "And marijuana smokers typically smoke differently than tobacco smokers--they hold their breath about four times longer, allowing more time for extra fine particles to deposit in the lung." One possible explanation for the new findings, he said, is that THC, a chemical in marijuana smoke, may encourage aging cells to die earlier and therefore be less likely to undergo cancerous transformation. The next step, Dr. Tashkin says, is to study the DNA samples of the subjects, to see whether there are some heavy marijuana users who may be at increased risk of developing cancer if they have a genetic susceptibility for cancer.



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

ONLINE SUBMITTAL

Hearing on Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 224

DATE: February 11, 2014
TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director
Re: Strong Opposition to SB 2733 Relating to Marijuana

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety and Commerce and Consumer Protection, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in the State of Hawaii.

If passed, SB 2733 would legalize personal use of marijuana in a specified quantity. The people of Hawaii should be wary of economics as the primary factor pushing the passage of SB 2733. No matter what reasons are given for the need to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, morality cannot be divorced from this debate; therefore, we submit this testimony in strong opposition.

Legitimizing the use of marijuana will translate for many, especially young people, as permissiveness, with little or no consideration of its ultimate effect on one's body. Marijuana is considered a "dangerous drug" and a "powerful intoxicant" that harms one's mental, physical, academic, and spiritual well-being, promotes irresponsible sexual behavior, encourages disrespect for traditional values, and threatens Hawaii's youth.

Long-term health effects of chronic use, and marijuana's role as a gateway to the use of other illegal drugs, are serious issues surrounding its use and decriminalization. The Catholic Church cares too much about the family to support this endeavor. Priority legislation should include efforts that strengthen and promote the family, not provide tools to ultimately destroy it.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church insists that life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God, and we must take reasonable care of them. "Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living-conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance." (no. 2288)

The Catechism extols the virtue of temperance which "disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine" (no. 2290). At this time, there has not been adequate education of society regarding the use of non-medical marijuana, thus opening the window for recreational use to become unregulated, addictive and even possibly life threatening.

Many prescribing physicians for medicinal use of marijuana are arbitrary as to what counts as an authentic medical need so there is no real way for this legislature to make a truly informed decision. Even the American Medical Association's 527-member House of Delegates decided during its interim meeting in 2013 (National Harbor, Md.), to retain the long-standing position that "cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern."

Decriminalized or not, marijuana remains a drug. The Catechism offers useful guidance: "The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life" (no. 2291). In 2001, the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry issued a pastoral handbook entitled "Church, Drugs, and Drug Addiction." The Pontifical Council teaches that the use of cannabis is "incompatible with Christian morality" because it is an intoxicant that dims reason and is potentially damaging to the integrity of one's body and soul. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lolita takeda	e ola pono ma kapolei	Oppose	No

Comments: I urge all our legislators not to support marijuana legalization. It is not good for our State, our kids, youth, families & our communities. Check out what's really happening in Colorado, a lot of negative affects - please let's learn our lessons from there.

We are all aware that underage drinking and so thus underage smoking are huge problems, not only in our schools, but in our communities.

One under 21 years old cannot buy or consume alcohol - but there is no effective enforcement - underage drinking is a problem, because alcohol is easily accessible to everyone, to include youth & children. The same thing is true with cigarettes. No one under 18 years of age is allowed to buy cigarettes, but every day, we see middle and high school students smoking everywhere.

So, what will make us believe that if we make marijuana readily accessible & legal for people 21 & older, that it will be kept away from our youth & to those who do not need it, but just simply abuse it.

I think I speak for the majority to say, we cannot have marijuana accessible to our youth & families.

To all our legislators, before considering legalizing marijuana use here in Hawaii, I urge you to think about our youth, our children and our families.

Please let's keep Hawaii - the paradise - we all say it is. Let's live, maintain and promote a healthy drug-free Hawaii.

Lolita Takeda
Kapolei Resident
Member- E Ola Pono Ma Kapolei

From: Pono Kapolei <eolaponomakapolei@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:36 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Oppose SB 2733 Legalizing the Personal Use of Marijuana in a Specified Quantity

Aloha kakou,

We must not allow marijuana to be legalized at all costs. We did so with alcohol and tobacco and look at what it got our people, many with tobacco-associated diseases (such as lung cancer, emphysema, etc.) and alcoholism. These two are the highest used and abused detrimental substances and they are legal. We do not need the ailments associated with marijuana (heart and lung complications, poor job performance, addiction, etc.) and add that to the list of high use and abused substance.

I am concerned that we have enough children with poor school outcomes and I don't want to add to that list if marijuana becomes legalized. Marijuana has been proven to lower a person's IQ by 8 points.

Mahalo for hearing what I and many others are saying - DO NOT ALLOW Marijuana to become legal in Hawaii. Our future is depending on it.

Mahalo,

Georgette Stevens
Chairperson, E Ola Pono Ma Kapolei
306-7992

hawaii family forum

ONLINE SUBMITTAL

Hearing on Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room #224

DATE: February 11, 2014

TO: Senate Committee on PSM Senate Committee on CPN
Senator Will Espero, Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to SB 2733 Relating to Marijuana

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and various faith-based groups. We oppose this bill that would legalize the personal use of marijuana.

While some states have legalized marijuana for medical (or even recreational) purposes, **it is still illegal to possess, use or distribute marijuana according to federal law.** The bottom line is that people who develop a pot habit could end up in jail.

It's important to note the impact of marijuana usage on important functions of the body; normal brain function and concentration, learning, memory, and judgment. These problems can continue for days or weeks after the immediate effects of the drug have worn off. In addition, research has linked marijuana use with poor overall job performance, which includes increased tardiness, absenteeism, accidents, and workers' compensation claims. The Hawaii job market deserves better than this!

Marijuana use impairs an individual's ability to make deep and meaningful attachments and robs them of the ability to be intimate with other people. This promotes isolation, which feeds the need to smoke pot, which strains more relationships, which causes increased conflict in marriage or with co-workers and friends. Heavy, long-term use of marijuana stunts emotional and social development. It kills motivation and prevents people from moving forward in their lives. Hawaii's families deserve better than this!

Hawaii Family Forum cares about the families of Hawaii and we believe that by legalizing marijuana for recreational use, the door will be opened to the introduction of people in our community to illegal drugs and the criminals who produce and distribute them. The men and women who serve in our law enforcement deserve better than this!

Our community deserves your consideration of the wider implications of legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Please kill this bill in committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

February 12, 2014

To: Chair Will Espero (Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee)
Chair Rosalyn Baker (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection)
Vice-Chair Brian Taniguchi (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection)
Esteemed Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs and on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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Mary Lou Brogan
Director

Re: Opposition to SB2733
Hearing: Thursday, February 13th, 2014 at 2:45PM
Rm. 224, State Capitol

My name is James Hochberg, and I have been a civil rights attorney in Honolulu since 1984. Currently I am also the president of Hawaii Family Advocates, a 501(c)(4) independent expenditure, non-candidate committee.

A critical review of available research and arguments has failed to demonstrate a single valid reason why a controlled substance like marijuana should be legalized in the State of Hawaii.

Since time immemorial, criminals have wanted their activities to be legalized – and I am sure that there would be wildly popular testimony on a bill to repeal speed limits or to stop fining jaywalkers. The legalization of marijuana is no different, and the logic that supporters use to substantiate their position can be seen as ‘juvenile’ at best – better suited to a fifth grader than an adult attempting to shape public policy.

I take great offense when supporters use flimsy arguments like:

- “Everyone does it, so it must be harmless”
- “The state just needs to legalize marijuana, and it will be alright” (even though federal law would still prohibit it).
- “Law enforcement has not worked, so we should legalize it”
- “Legalizing marijuana would free up law enforcement officers to pursue more violent offenders”
- “Marijuana use is harmless” or “Marijuana is a victimless crime”
- “Alcohol is worse than marijuana”
- “Marijuana will not hurt children (only people older than 21 could legally do so)”

“Taxing marijuana would be a great revenue source for government”

All of these arguments have been thoroughly debunked. But if there was a single reason why marijuana should not be legalized, it should not be legalized for the children.

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

Laws that prohibit the use or possession of alcohol and cigarettes by minors have not prevented its use by under-aged individuals. In fact, the top three drugs abused by minors are a) alcohol, b) cigarettes and c) prescription drugs, all of which have controls on them. The accessibility of these controlled substances is what has made them the three most abused drugs by minors. The usage of marijuana by minors is particularly disturbing because brain development in children does not finish until early- or mid-20s. Marijuana use by minors would irreparably halt brain development that will place them at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives.

Additionally, there is no test to determine whether a marijuana user is too impaired to operate a motor vehicle. While there are similar standards that are used to prosecute alcohol users who are impaired when they drive a car, there is no similar test or standard that can be used to prosecute a marijuana user that is impaired. Too often marijuana users have testified by saying "Trust me, I will not drive impaired". I don't. I do not trust them any more than an alcoholic or a methamphetamine addict. SB2733 is woefully lacking because it does not address intoxicated drivers.

It is for these reasons, and the adverse effects it has on public health¹ that I oppose SB2733 and the legalization of marijuana. I care about the children, and I care about the future of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

James Hochberg, Esq.
President, Hawaii Family Advocates

¹ <http://learnaboutsam.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Marijuana-Marijuana-and-Health.pdf>

John J.H. Yoo

University of Hawaii, Manoa School of Social Work

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2014
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 224

RE: SB2733 RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

Legalizes the personal use of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subject marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

Aloha Committee on Public Safety and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is John Yoo and I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social work at UH Manoa. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2733**.

I strongly support Marijuana to be legalized for the same reason that alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and other substances are legal. The prohibition of marijuana exaggeratedly generates crime and black-market traffic and deprives our economy of legal business and revenues. Moreover, laws against marijuana wrongly criminalize otherwise law-abiding citizens of Hawaii, as a result has expended valuable time, energy, and attention, which could have been directed for more severe crimes. More importantly, from the standpoint of public safety, legalization offers the benefits of eliminating millions of marijuana criminals, taking marijuana out of the hands of criminal traffickers, street dealers, pirate growers, grow houses and foreign smugglers, and

putting it into the hands of legal businesses subject to regulation, whose products can be monitored for safety and quality, and who have a strong incentive not to sell to children. To conclude, on behalf of the citizens of Hawaii who value the right to use marijuana, this policy offers benefits to all of our fellow citizens, and would more than be willing to pay taxes in a legal market under the law.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment on this bill. I strongly urge the committee to **PASS** bill **SB2733**.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 12:21 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: tomberg00@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the regulation of cannabis for adults- it will help deter the use of this plant with minors since drug dealers and the blackmarket does not care who they sell to and what age their clients are- SB2733 keeps the plant out of the hands of minors. To those in opposition- your marijuana is a gateway drug theory is a myth that has been debunked and is quite ignorant to the facts. Heroin and cocaine users started with tobacco and alcohol. To say marijuana use leads to harder substances is equivalent to this statement: "At one point, every alcoholic drank milk. One can deduce then that milk contributes to the causes of alcoholism and therefore should be banned." Absurd isn't it? The real kicker is testimony from the sheriff of Seattle who when before the US Senate Judiciary Committee in September, 2013, on the subject of regulating marijuana, stated after his 37 plus years in law enforcement of which 12 was as a narcotic's agent, fully embraced and supported the regulation of marijuana. If you want the facts from experienced law enforcement personnel who have not succumbed to the propaganda against marijuana- officers who will stand up and tell the truth - then I plead to you to watch this short 10-minute video of the sheriff's testimony where marijuana is legal for adults ---please watch- most revealing and pertinent to Hawaii:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPOxPBZe4Q>

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Kulik	Individual	Support	No

To: The Hawaii State Legislature

From: Dorothy Kulik, Kauai.

Re: SB2733

Date: February 11, 2014

Crime rates would reduce after legalization of cannabis. Most of drug cases and arrest made in the world are associated with cannabis possession, abuse or sale. After cannabis is legalized people can gain access to the drug legally, hence, a reduction in crime rates.

By legalizing the drug, government can generate money through taxes. Research conducted in California where medical cannabis is legal, discovered that the state treasury gained 14 billion dollars from cannabis taxes.

Finally, never in history has an incident been recorded of cannabis causing death. On the other hand, the Center for Disease Control annually reports 80,000 deaths from alcohol. Therefore, I assert it is a matter of public safety to allow people a legal opportunity to choose cannabis over alcohol.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 3:47 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: allanreaves@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allan Reaves	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is an individual's birthright to choose one's medicine without having to justify our desire to use it. Prohibition did not work with alcohol and it does not work with cannabis, which ironically is far safer and more medicinal than alcohol, let alone tobacco.

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SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Eisenstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Holland essentially legalized the sale of cannabis and cannabis products to adults over a quarter of a century ago. It remains legal for adults there, to this day and for many good reasons. Uruguay just did the same and is setting up stores to sell to adults. Many countries are now looking to do the same. It's time for Hawaii to join the US states that have ended their wars against their own people over marijuana and for many, many, good reasons. Here are a few excellent reasons why Hawaii should end it's war on Hawaii's people over marijuana. 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. 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. In greater depth: Taxing and regulating makes economic sense for Hawai'i(1): It would save \$12 million a year in marijuana law enforcement costs. It would bring in at least \$11.3 million a year in tax revenue. Legalizing marijuana for adults will undercut dangerous drug cartels which sell millions of dollars in marijuana on the black market. Prohibition has failed: Marijuana use is mainstream and widespread. More than 106 million Americans have tried it and every year more than 80% of high school students say it's easy to obtain (per Monitoring the Future survey.) Prohibition makes control impossible: Producers and sellers of marijuana are completely unregulated unlike sellers of tobacco and alcohol. There are no quality controls for purity or potency. Taxing and regulating marijuana allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes(1): In Hawai'i, marijuana arrests for possession have increased 50% since 2004. Arrests for distribution have almost doubled since 2004. Costs and law enforcement time spent on these could be used for more serious drug offenses like Hawaii's methamphetamine problem or in addressing violent crimes. Hawaii's marijuana laws are enforced unevenly(1): There is no evidence that any specific gender or ethnic group uses marijuana more than another group, but arrest data in Hawai'i show a different story: Males are 50% more likely to be arrested than females Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested. Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians. Filipinos are 30% more likely to be arrested than non-Filipinos. Non-Oahu residents are 40-140% more likely to be arrested for possession than Oahu residents. 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. While people who are convicted of marijuana related offenses are denied federal student aid, people convicted of violent crimes remain eligible. Arrests for marijuana possession are one of the most common ways that people get caught up in the criminal justice system. Marijuana users who are not

convicted have gone on to be President or a Supreme Court justice. Legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use will not increase youth consumption: Selling to minors (under 21) will remain illegal. Young people now have easy access to marijuana since drug dealers don't check IDs. Placing marijuana under strict regulatory control may actually decrease youth access here in Hawai'i since regulated businesses could lose their license if they sell to minors while illegal dealers have no incentive not to sell to kids. Hawai'i residents support the taxation and regulation of marijuana(2): In a December 2012 poll, 57% of registered voters in Hawai'i support legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use. 76% believe police should focus their time on violent crimes and fighting the ice/methamphetamine problem in Hawai'i. Laws against driving while intoxicated and other anti-social behaviors will remain in place. The current bill keeps penalties in place for those driving under the influence of marijuana. The current bill does not allow for marijuana consumption in public places. All forms of advertising will be prohibited. References: 1 – Nixon, David. Update to: Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization in Hawai'i. Public Policy Center: University of Hawai'i, Dec 2012.

http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/econreptmarijuana1_2013.pdf 2 – QMark Research & Polling. November 19 –December 4, 2012. Survey of 603 adults statewide, MOE +/-4%

<http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/dpagmarijuanapolicyfindings.pdf>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 7:41 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: zkuyten@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM*

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zack Kuyten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 7:56 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: Albertthomas1953@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Albert Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 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. 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. In greater depth: Taxing and regulating makes economic sense for Hawai'i(1): It would save \$12 million a year in marijuana law enforcement costs. It would bring in at least \$11.3 million a year in tax revenue. Legalizing marijuana for adults will undercut dangerous drug cartels which sell millions of dollars in marijuana on the black market. Prohibition has failed: Marijuana use is mainstream and widespread. More than 106 million Americans have tried it and every year more than 80% of high school students say it's easy to obtain (per Monitoring the Future survey.) Prohibition makes control impossible: Producers and sellers of marijuana are completely unregulated unlike sellers of tobacco and alcohol. There are no quality controls for purity or potency. Taxing and regulating marijuana allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes(1): In Hawai'i, marijuana arrests for possession have increased 50% since 2004. Arrests for distribution have almost doubled since 2004. Costs and law enforcement time spent on these could be used for more serious drug offenses like Hawaii's methamphetamine problem or in addressing violent crimes. Hawaii's marijuana laws are enforced unevenly(1): There is no evidence that any specific gender or ethnic group uses marijuana more than another group, but arrest data in Hawai'i show a different story: Males are 50% more likely to be arrested than females Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested. Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians. Filipinos are 30% more likely to be arrested than non-Filipinos. Non-Oahu residents are 40-140% more likely to be arrested for possession than Oahu residents. 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. While people who are convicted of marijuana related offenses are denied federal student aid, people convicted of violent crimes remain eligible. Arrests for marijuana possession are one of the most common ways that people get caught up in the criminal justice system. Marijuana users who are not convicted have gone on to be President or a Supreme Court justice. Legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use will not increase youth consumption: Selling to minors (under 21) will remain illegal. Young people now have easy access to marijuana since drug dealers don't check IDs. Placing marijuana under strict regulatory control may actually decrease youth access here in Hawai'i since regulated businesses could lose their license if they sell to minors while illegal dealers have no incentive not to sell to kids. Hawai'i residents support

the taxation and regulation of marijuana(2): In a December 2012 poll, 57% of registered voters in Hawai'i support legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use. 76% believe police should focus their time on violent crimes and fighting the ice/methamphetamine problem in Hawai'i. Laws against driving while intoxicated and other anti-social behaviors will remain in place. The current bill keeps penalties in place for those driving under the influence of marijuana. The current bill does not allow for marijuana consumption in public places. All forms of advertising will be prohibited.

References: 1 – Nixon, David. Update to: Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization in Hawai'i. Public Policy Center: University of Hawai'i, Dec 2012.

http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/econreptmarijuana1_2013.pdf 2 – QMark Research & Polling. November 19 –December 4, 2012. Survey of 603 adults statewide, MOE +/-4%

<http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/dpagmarijuanapolicyfindings.pdf>

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: PSMTestimony
Cc: alangorg@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha, The multiple medical uses for cannabis have been well proven and are vital for the health of many patients. The fact others are using it to get high should not deny the needs of those suffering from illness. Mahalo

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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SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is reasonable and prudent. This would generate income for the state rather than waste time and money on trying to control based on fear and old lies. We need to ask people that know rather than believe things based on fear and ignorance. Government needs to protect the public not control individuals and their right to live simply and peacefully. If someone is selling something that is killing people than there is an issue. This is not the case. Chemically processed man made goods need supervision not God made herbs and plants. Tax and use the money for research, rehabilitation if needed etc.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keth Fetterhoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support decriminalization and availability for medical use to replace expensive ineffective treatments for incurable illness especially involving chronic pain. Taxes and fees should be used to provide healing centers, rehabilitation, research, monitoring etc. This will save the state so much money and would promote sustainability. The future of the islands as a global leader or a follower is resting in these pivotal decisions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 1:49 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: konagold@starband.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM
Attachments: testimony sb 2733 02-13-2014.docx

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rev, Dennis Shields	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha The time to tax and regulate cannabis is long overdue 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

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SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is the most reasonable and prudent action. laws should be based on current knowledge and facts not on fear, prejudice and corporate greed. I support decriminalization and availability for medical use to replace expensive ineffective treatments for incurable illness especially involving chronic pain. Taxes and fees should be used to provide healing centers, rehabilitation, research, monitoring etc. This will save the state so much money and would promote sustainability. The future of the islands as a global leader or a follower is resting in these pivotal decisions. Mahalo.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM 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 COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair It is time to legalize. There are MILLIONS of \$\$\$ to save and countless lives to change. The current policy of "drugs are illegal so people using them are criminals" has not stopped one case of drug addiction from occurring or stopped one crime from being committed. The War on Drugs has been an abysmal failure that costs millions of dollars and has shredded the fabric of our society with lopsided convictions and hugely contributed to the Prison for Profit industry. Imagine a world where a drug addict gets treatment instead of incarceration and a criminal record for life. Legalization can provide funding for successful drug interdiction and treatment. In reality, countries that have legalized have seen a drop in crime and addiction rates. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain with legalization. Mahalo!

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julius Lannutti	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I would like to add this to my testimony: From National Cancer Institute: <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/cam/cannabis/patient/page2> Have any preclinical (laboratory or animal) studies been conducted using Cannabis or cannabinoids? Preclinical studies of cannabinoids have investigated the following activities: Antitumor activity Studies in mice and rats have shown that cannabinoids may inhibit tumor growth by causing cell death, blocking cell growth, and blocking the development of blood vessels needed by tumors to grow. Laboratory and animal studies have shown that cannabinoids may be able to kill cancer cells while protecting normal cells. A study in mice showed that cannabinoids may protect against inflammation of the colon and may have potential in reducing the risk of colon cancer, and possibly in its treatment. A laboratory study of delta-9-THC in hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer) cells showed that it damaged or killed the cancer cells. The same study of delta-9-THC in mouse models of liver cancer showed that it had antitumor effects. Delta-9-THC has been shown to cause these effects by acting on molecules that may also be found in non-small cell lung cancer cells and breast cancer cells. A laboratory study of cannabidiol in estrogen receptor positive and estrogen receptor negative breast cancer cells showed that it caused cancer cell death while having little effect on normal breast cells. A laboratory study of cannabidiol in human glioma cells showed that when given along with chemotherapy, cannabidiol may make chemotherapy more effective and increase cancer cell death without harming normal cells. Stimulating appetite Many animal studies have shown that delta-9-THC and other cannabinoids stimulate appetite and can increase food intake. Pain relief Cannabinoid receptors (molecules that bind cannabinoids) have been studied in the brain, spinal cord, and nerve endings throughout the body to understand their roles in pain relief. Cannabinoids have been studied for anti-inflammatory effects that may play a role in pain relief. Have any clinical trials (research studies with people) of Cannabis or cannabinoid use by cancer patients been conducted? No

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Share Christie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: schedule 1 is a fraud Hawaii deserves full legalization, to support our economy, to end the war on drugs, and this black market end reefer madness lie, we have so much to give to our people [the tree of life] medicine, fuel sustainable living, it's time, my husband has been an activist for 29 years see this goal come true

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Dearest Legislators, This is a great bill and I wholly support it. We need to keep the jobs here in Hawaii available to local farmers, and local merchants. While I believe the \$5000 fee for a license is rather harsh, I do believe that we need to limit the acquisition of licenses to persons who have lived here for years, and not give them out to the highest bidder who comes flying in overnight. Under no circumstances should we reward the tobacco companies with the right to grow and/or sell cannabis marijuana. Thank you in advance for passing this bill and improving the quality of life for all persons living and visiting Hawaii!

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I support the legalization of cannabis and the establishment of medical dispensaries in Hawaii. The prohibition against this plant is imperative for the health of citizens and the end of social injustice. Many people with a wide range of health issues are finding life saving treatments with cannabis plant products -- children with severe epilepsy(Dravet's Syndrome), cancer patients (melanoma), patients with intractable skin diseases, and veterans with PTSD are among the spectrum of people who find the pain relief and healing properties in this plant a blessing. Citizens of Hawaii are not the only people who have rediscovered cannabis. Leading physicians and scientific researchers such as Dr. Robert Melamede have devoted years of research toward discovering and publishing the medical benefits of cannabis. Dr. Sanjay Gupta also recently broadcast his mea culpa over past support of cannabis prohibition. We evolved with this plant. Our bodies have a natural affinity for cannabis: check PubMed for endocannabinoid system. Our bodies work in synch with the cannabis compounds. The war on cannabis is a disproportionate war on citizens. People from all walks of life use cannabis but not everyone gets arrested, sent to jail. Poor people, people of color are arrested for possession in far greater numbers. Mostly, the rich escape the same injustice. They don't have law enforcement routinely entering their neighborhoods searching for crime. The rich have good lawyers, good protection. Arresting citizens for a plant with medicinal properties is beyond deplorable. The current laws destroy lives, tears apart families. Benefits of this plant refute the claims of prohibitionists. Cannabis is not a scourge. The founders of this country promoted the growing of this plant for industry. The first American flag was made from hemp. Prohibition of cannabis was designed as a crime against citizens too poor and too ignorant to fight back. The prohibitionist were wrong then and they are wrong now. The plant is good, and the majority of people in Hawaii and around this country realize the real crime is the continued support of antiquated and unjust laws. Stop arresting citizens for cannabis. Stop feeding the prison industry with citizens convicted for victimless acts.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: This is a CA\$H crop whether you agree to participate in its commerce or not. Let's legalize it, tax it and stop making up excuses. Mahalo for stepping up to the plate.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: We are on the right side of history with this one. Bravo Hawaii!!, the criminalization of cannabis is the best example of government gone crazy ignoring the facts of the safety and efficacy of the world's oldest therapeutic substance, the plant known as cannabis. Since the dawn of agriculture, people and plant have evolved together so intimately that humans and other animals have endo-cannabinoids systems which mimic and respond to cannabis as if they were made for each other. They were. Only criminals, like the ones which run the federal government, want to keep cannabis illegal. Billions of dollars and countless lives wasted in enforcing the erroneous untenable position of cannabis being a dangerous drug with no medical use. Insane and criminal. Cannabis MUST be removed from Schedule 1 of the DEA and we can begin to heal the ravages of the War on Drugs. Anyone opposing the legalization of cannabis is guilty of ignorance at the very least and criminality at the worst. The People are not blind, and we will not rest until justice is served. The Truth is that cannabis is illegal not because it is so BAD, but because it is so GOOD. Hawaii is poised to benefit. Please don't stand in the way of truth and progress. Legalize cannabis before it is too late.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Its crazy that alcohol and tobacco are legal and marijuana isnt. I especially support it for medical reasons.

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2014

2:45PM

Conference Room 224

State Capital

415 South Beretania Street

Strong Support - SB2733 - Relating to Marijuana

The present debate on marijuana policy is long overdue. There's a growing body of scientific data which demonstrates the beneficial and therapeutic properties of marijuana. In fact, twenty states and the District of Columbia (that's nearly half of the country!) have already legalized marijuana for medicinal use. Several more are currently in the process of doing so. Let's not forget that it has been legal here in Hawaii, for medicinal use, for nearly fourteen years already.

Yet the group of people who are still opposed to the legalization of marijuana for personal use (whose numbers, according to reputable polls, continue to decline) claim that it is unhealthy and dangerous. They group the relatively benign marijuana plant in the same category as cocaine, heroin, and meth and say we need to keep drugs illegal in order to protect our society - especially the children - from the public health consequences of addiction and disease they may cause. Using scare tactics to defend one's opposition no longer works. That argument is not consistent with the fact that two of the most deadly drugs in America are legal and readily available. Research has consistently found marijuana to be less dangerous than either alcohol or tobacco ... but yet the state licenses and regulates its use among adult consumers?

It's time to end the hypocrisy and adopt a new, more sensible, approach towards marijuana policy. Alcohol and tobacco are far more addictive and harmful than marijuana. The dangers of marijuana use have been exaggerated for nearly a century and the modern scientific record simply does not support the 'reefer madness' propaganda and spurious claims of the past. Responsible adults have demonstrated over the last several decades that marijuana can be used moderately without harmful impacts to the individual or society. It can be used with far fewer health and social consequences than alcohol and tobacco.

When common sense prevails, responsible adults will not be punished for simply choosing to use a substance that is objectively safer. Besides, the criminalization of marijuana simply doesn't work. Marijuana use is mainstream and widespread. Even our last three Presidents have admit to smoking marijuana. There are plenty of reasonable, productive, well-educated, successful people (and people who vote!) that use marijuana and who no longer wish to be classified as criminals for choosing what is actually a safer and smarter alternative to alcohol. Marijuana users are not criminals. They are the very back-bone of society.

Public support for ending the prohibition on marijuana and replacing it with regulation has never been stronger. According to a recent (January, 2014) statewide poll by Qmark Research, 66% of Hawaii voters support legalizing marijuana. I am among that 66%. My friends, neighbors, and co-workers, though possibly not quite as outspoken, are also among that 66%. The legalization of marijuana for personal use is a logical and reasonable outgrowth of the current science of marijuana and rapidly changing public attitudes toward marijuana.

As we all know, the cultivation, use, and sale of marijuana is already occurring throughout this state. It being illegal has not deterred use or reduced the supply. This is a plant that thrives in Hawaiian soil, growing year-round under the warm, nourishing, sun above our islands ... and beneath grow-lights in those underground bunkers that we see on the news every so often, usually hidden from view. It's not as if passage of this bill will all of a sudden open the floodgates to a new market. The consumption of and demand for marijuana already exists. The only difference is that there will finally be regulations in place to oversee its cultivation, production, and sale. It's no longer a matter of IF this will happen but rather WHEN this will happen. Personally, I'd like to see these changes take place sooner rather than later.

Legalizing and regulating marijuana holds the potential for greater public safety, a reduction in crime, the creation of new jobs, and the fiscal benefit of a new and promising source of tax revenue. It will allow law enforcement to focus their limited time and resources on serious crime. Right now, if someone wants it, they can get it. From what I hear, it's not too difficult. In the current unregulated environment, all one needs to do is ask around. Drug dealers have no incentive not to sell to children, so it's even in the hands of our youngest citizens. They don't, as long as it's still illegal, need to show an ID to prove they are 'of age' in order to make a purchase. They just show the cash and get their stash. I think we can all agree that it's not in their best interests, for children and teens to be using marijuana recreationally. If we really want to protect the youths of Hawaii from the so-called dangers of marijuana, let's make it less accessible to them. It is time to stop ceding control of the marijuana market to unregulated and untaxed criminal enterprises. Let's regulate marijuana as we do alcohol and tobacco, with a system of licenses, taxes, and age restrictions. It just makes sense.

As of this writing, at least 17 states have already passed decriminalization measures which remove criminal penalties for possession of marijuana. Decriminalization is certainly a step in the right direction. The significance of the recent legalization measures in Washington and Colorado is that they not only remove criminal penalties but also legalize and regulate the growth and distribution of marijuana. Federal policy gives state legislatures the opportunity to implement their own regulations. The Department of Justice has stated that the federal government will not interfere and will not arrest individual marijuana users in states that have legalized the drug. In fact, in a recent interview President Obama publicly stated that marijuana legalization in Colorado and Washington is an important move towards a more just legal system. I agree. The time has come to move beyond the current impasse and begin working on the more serious tasks associated with the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in the state of Hawaii. I respectfully encourage you to support the legislation in Senate Bill 2733.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Georgina McKinley

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: All Cannabis Should Be Re Legalized as it was before 1937.. Shame on the government for even allowing this to happen in the first place..

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Dawn Shimabukuro

Date: February 13, 2014 at 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 2733
Relating to Marijuana

I am in strong support on legalizing personal use of marijuana. It has been too long that Hawaii has not taken advantage of this growing industry. Washington and Colorado have already passed laws legalizing marijuana, and so far the only feedback has been positive. These states have made money via taxes which would help Hawaii's economy and its taxpayers. In all my years I have never witnessed or been involved with any kind of violence when people smoke marijuana, in fact the few times that I have witnessed violent acts is when someone is drunk.

Marijuana has been proven to be safer than alcohol, both physically and mentally. I have friends that smoke in order to reduce anxiety, pain, and nausea. It is a sad situation when they have to feel like criminals because of their need for marijuana. Also, the fallacy that this is a gateway drug is not true. I know of people that have been smoking it for 30+ years and they have never gone to harder drugs. Please pass this bill so that the police and the courts can concern themselves with more pressing issues than someone smoking for relief from illnesses or just for pleasure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: 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. 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.

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

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: 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. 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. In greater depth: Taxing and regulating makes economic sense for Hawai'i: • It would save \$12 million a year in marijuana law enforcement costs. • It would bring in at least \$11.3 million a year in tax revenue. • Legalizing marijuana for adults will undercut dangerous drug cartels which sell millions of dollars in marijuana on the black market. Prohibition has failed: • Marijuana use is mainstream and widespread. More than 106 million Americans have tried it and every year more than 80% of high school students say it's easy to obtain (per Monitoring the Future survey.) Prohibition makes control impossible: • Producers and sellers of marijuana are completely unregulated unlike sellers of tobacco and alcohol. • There are no quality controls for purity or potency. Taxing and regulating marijuana allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes: • In Hawai'i, marijuana arrests for possession have increased 50% since 2004. • Arrests for distribution have almost doubled since 2004. • Costs and law enforcement time spent on these could be used for more serious drug offenses like Hawaii's methamphetamine problem or in addressing violent crimes. Hawaii's marijuana laws are enforced unevenly: • There is no evidence that any specific gender or ethnic group uses marijuana more than another group, but arrest data in Hawai'i show a different story: o Males are 50% more likely to be arrested than females o Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested. o Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians. o Filipinos are 30% more likely to be arrested than non-Filipinos. o Non-Oahu residents are 40-140% more likely to be arrested for possession than Oahu residents. • Convicted marijuana offenders: o Are denied federal student aid. o Lose their professional licenses. o Encounter barriers to employment, housing, and adoption. o These penalties disproportionately affect young, low income, and minority individuals. • While people who are convicted of marijuana related offenses are denied federal student aid, people convicted of violent crimes remain eligible. • Arrests for marijuana possession are one of the most common ways that people get caught up in the criminal justice system. • Marijuana users who are not convicted have gone on to be President or a Supreme Court justice. Legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use will not increase youth consumption: • Selling to minors (under 21) will remain illegal. • Young people now have easy access to marijuana since drug dealers don't check IDs. • Placing marijuana under strict regulatory control may actually decrease youth access here in Hawai'i since regulated businesses could lose their license if they

sell to minors while illegal dealers have no incentive not to sell to kids. Hawai'i residents support the taxation and regulation of marijuana: • In a December 2012 poll, 57% of registered voters in Hawai'i support legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use. • 76% believe police should focus their time on violent crimes and fighting the ice/methamphetamine problem in Hawai'i. Laws against driving while intoxicated and other anti-social behaviors will remain in place. • The current bill keeps penalties in place for those driving under the influence of marijuana. • The current bill does not allow for marijuana consumption in public places. • All forms of advertising will be prohibited.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: As Colorado is proving, Taxing and regulating marijuana makes economic sense for Hawai'i(1): It would save \$12 million a year in marijuana law enforcement costs. It would bring in at least \$11.3 million a year in tax revenue. Legalizing marijuana for adults will undercut dangerous drug cartels which sell millions of dollars in marijuana on the black market.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I may not agree with everything in this bill but it is at least a positive step forward for individual's rights

Central message:

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. 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.

In greater depth:**Taxing and regulating makes economic sense for Hawai'i(1):**

- It would save \$12 million a year in marijuana law enforcement costs.
- It would bring in at least \$11.3 million a year in tax revenue.
- Legalizing marijuana for adults will undercut dangerous drug cartels which sell millions of dollars in marijuana on the black market.

Prohibition has failed:

- Marijuana use is mainstream and widespread. More than 106 million Americans have tried it and every year more than 80% of high school students say it's easy to obtain (per Monitoring the Future survey.)

Prohibition makes control impossible:

- Producers and sellers of marijuana are completely unregulated unlike sellers of tobacco and alcohol.
- There are no quality controls for purity or potency.

Taxing and regulating marijuana allows police to spend money on serious and violent crimes(1):

- In Hawai'i, marijuana arrests for possession have increased 50% since 2004.
- Arrests for distribution have almost doubled since 2004.
- Costs and law enforcement time spent on these could be used for more serious drug offenses like Hawaii's methamphetamine problem or in addressing violent crimes.

Hawaii's marijuana laws are enforced unevenly(1):

- There is no evidence that any specific gender or ethnic group uses marijuana more than another group, but arrest data in Hawai'i show a different story:
 - Males are 50% more likely to be arrested than females
 - Juveniles are 70% more likely to be arrested.
 - Native Hawaiians are 70% more likely to be arrested than non-native Hawaiians.
 - Filipinos are 30% more likely to be arrested than non-Filipinos.
 - Non-Oahu residents are 40-140% more likely to be arrested for possession than Oahu residents.
- 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.
- While people who are convicted of marijuana related offenses are denied federal student aid, people convicted of violent crimes remain eligible.
- Arrests for marijuana possession are one of the most common ways that people get caught up in the criminal justice system.
- Marijuana users who are not convicted have gone on to be President or a Supreme Court justice.

Legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use will not increase youth consumption:

- Selling to minors (under 21) will remain illegal.
- Young people now have easy access to marijuana since drug dealers don't check IDs.
- Placing marijuana under strict regulatory control may actually decrease youth access here in Hawai'i since regulated businesses could lose their license if they sell to minors while illegal dealers have no incentive not to sell to kids.

Hawai'i residents support the taxation and regulation of marijuana(2):

- In a December 2012 poll, 57% of registered voters in Hawai'i support legalizing, taxing, and regulating marijuana for personal use.
- 76% believe police should focus their time on violent crimes and fighting the ice/methamphetamine problem in Hawai'i.

Laws against driving while intoxicated and other anti-social behaviors will remain in place.

- The current bill keeps penalties in place for those driving under the influence of marijuana.
- The current bill does not allow for marijuana consumption in public places.
- All forms of advertising will be prohibited.

References:

1 – Nixon, David. Update to: Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization in Hawai'i. Public Policy Center: University of Hawai'i, Dec 2012.
http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/econreptmarijuana1_2013.pdf

2 – QMark Research & Polling. November 19 –December 4, 2012. Survey of 603 adults statewide, MOE +/-4%
<http://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/dpagmarijuanapolicyfindings.pdf>

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: When is the State of Hawaii going to get its head out of the sand and look at the facts ? Anyone that has NOT read Ed Rosenthals book "The Emperor Wears No Clothes " is only seeing a small part of reality . This is a human rights issue , a medical issue and a personal freedom issue . When is Hawaii and its true patriots going to wake up ? Spending money to imprison good citizens and wasting law enforcement's time and more money is the crime . Violating human rights by having helicopters land in private communities on private citizen's property . Who are the criminals here ?

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: With cannabis legalization in Colorado and Washington it is obvious that the country has turned an important corner. In the coming years many states will be moving to legalize. With 57% of Hawai'i's citizens supporting this, would it not make sense for the legislature to legalize pot now? Our representatives would be commended for their yes vote. No worries at election time. If we eliminate the "moral" argument, there are simply no reasons not to legalize. 1. Police will save taxpayer's money and be able to focus on serious and violent crimes. 2. Hawai'ians of native ancestry arrested disproportionately now for cannabis possession will not be sent to mainland prisons for a non-violent crime. 3. Government regulated sales takes cannabis out of the hands of criminals and drug dealers and will keep it away from children. 4. Taxes generated can be used for educational purposes and rehabilitation for those who abuse drugs including ICE. 5. Legalization will bring increased tourism to Hawai'i and create jobs. Hopefully during this legislative session intelligence and reason will prevail. Having said that the very least that needs to pass is a law to decriminalization cannabis for quantities under one ounce. That will greatly reduce the number arrested and eliminate criminal charges for possession of small amounts. Andrea Tischler Hilo, HI.

From: Greg Kemp <greg@yourhomebuilder.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 11:53 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: PSMTestimony
Subject: Support SB2733

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this bill.

It makes sense for the State of Hawaii to finally acknowledge the "green elephant" in the room. She has gotten bigger since the 70s in spite of costly attempts to lure her away, starve her and outright slaughter her. The resources the State has spent in trying to rid itself of this beast has done nothing to stop the growth of the elephant nor the financial gain of those who would rob the State and public by profiting from the elephant. Those who are caught cost the State and public even more money to prosecute and incarcerate.

The elephant will abandon the criminals if the State decides to acknowledge that she is in the room and here to stay. Maybe then we can come to terms with her as far as where she may roam, associates with, do some creative breeding and give her a thorough medical examination for public safety. The elephant in turn will profit the State financially and conform to governance as best as an elephant can.

Soon, when other states and the Federal government acknowledge their elephant, the State of Hawaii will be best positioned to share our elephant with the world. She will be highly sought and she will be relatively inexpensive to raise, co-mingling and not harming existing crops and surviving where no crops can grow. By comparison the elephant that grows in Colorado cannot live outside very well and is costly to live indoors and never looks as attractive and healthy as the Hawaii grown elephant.

Greg Kemp

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	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.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Graybosch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. Licensed, regulated Marijuana for personal use has begun successfully in other states and the Federal Government has stated publicly they do not intend to prosecute. In addition recent statements by the Obama Administration have indicated marijuana is less dangerous than tobacco or alcohol. The tax dollars, product safety and quality all benefit the Hawaii Economy. Sincerely, Bob Graybosch

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 12:22 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: chuckdneedham@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM*

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2733 to legalize marijuana.

The War on Drugs should be ended. It has filled our jails, cost taxpayers millions, and fueled organized crime. In June of 2011, an alliance of world leaders declared the War on Drugs "a resounding failure"! The alliance included former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Paul Volcker, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and ex-presidents of Columbia and Mexico. Their recommendations to the UN:

- End the criminalization of drug users who "do no harm to others;"
- Use legal regulation to wrestle controls from criminals;
- Institute addiction treatment programs if needed.
-

Jimmy Carter supported these reforms in a New York Times editorial, "Call Off the Global Drug War."

Our President Obama used marijuana as teenager and if it had been found on him he could have gone to jail and had his life destroyed as has happened to many others. It's use obviously did not harm his mental abilities or his abilities to handle enormous responsibility.

Marijuana has medical spiritual, creative, and recreational uses. The statistics show that use of alcohol and tobacco have much more damaging health consequences and thus far greater costs in medical care.

It is time to end this unjust imprisonment and enormous waste of money to criminalize people for use and growing of this plant of many beneficial uses.

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2014

2:45PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Strong Support – SB2733 – Relating to Marijuana

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs,

I'm certain that by now you have heard all of the arguments time and time again. This bill would legalize marijuana. Many, many, people will make the standard arguments for legalizing marijuana. It will save money, it will help keep it out of the hands of our children, it will create a strong local agriculture, it will allow the police to focus their efforts on real crimes that cause real harm to people. Instead, I'd like to focus on rebuffing some of the arguments against this bill. It is my belief that we need to justify the amount of money we spend and the number of lives we ruin in the attempt to prohibit marijuana, in order to justify failing to pass a legalization bill.

One argument you may hear is that we need to keep marijuana illegal so as to send a message that marijuana is dangerous. Putting aside for now the question of whether or not this message is true, a campaign of prohibition has proven ineffective at sending this message. Teens by and large believe that marijuana is either harmless or mostly harmless, according to the Monitoring the Future Survey conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. **Prohibition has failed to send a message, and in the process has ruined countless lives and cost billions upon billions of dollars.**

A related argument is that legalization will put marijuana into the hands of children. This is of course untrue, and indeed, deeply counterintuitive. Who has an incentive to sell marijuana to children, a dispensary owner or a drug dealer? The same survey done by the NIDA shows that marijuana continues to be far easier for children and teens to access than either alcohol or cigarettes, and this is because it is unregulated. **Regulation is what will keep marijuana out of the hands of children.**

Some prohibitionists have made a false comparison, saying that alcohol causes more harm than it raises in revenue. While this is true, it is deeply misleading, because it ignores all of the damage that would be (and was) done to society by the prohibition of alcohol.

Finally, you may hear many arguments that federal law prevents us from passing a legalization bill. While that may have been the case last year, Attorney General Eric Holder's several pronouncements on the issue pave the way for state level legalization efforts to continue unencumbered by federal interference.

Prohibition has been tried and has failed. It costs the state of Hawaii 30 million dollars a year in enforcement costs and lost revenues. It gains us nothing but full prisons, a population of drug dealers and criminals, and it is not what we, the voters of the state of Hawaii want.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Queinitra Toilolo	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Will Espero, Chair
Rosaly H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety

Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Date: Thursday, February 13th
Time: 2:45PM
Place: Conference room 224, State Capitol

From: Craig R. Ellenwood

Re: Measure: SB2733 Position: Support

Aloha Chairs and Members of The Committees of Public Safety and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The time has come to end marijuana prohibition. Two states have now legalized marijuana and taken the profits from criminals and are finding that crime has dropped, tax revenue is up, and people are not being insane in the streets.

People will use marijuana whether it's legal or not. The question we must ask ourselves is, is it worth it to continue to criminally punish people, tarnish their record, prevent them from getting good jobs for using a plant that has been proven safer than alcohol or tobacco? Please pass this bill and let's end marijuana prohibition in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity,
Craig R. Ellenwood

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM 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. I have evaluated and/or treated hundreds of individuals who used marijuana and hundreds of individuals who used alcohol. It is clear to me and well known in the scientific literature that marijuana is less dangerous than alcohol. Pres. Obama himself has said publicly that marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol and has called the legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington "important." Hawaii's scarce criminal justice resources should not be devoted to what is essentially a public health problem. Those who use this drug should not have to face the significant burdens attendant to arrest and conviction on a possession charge. A majority of the public agrees with this according to recent polling. The Senate should follow a rational risk-benefit analysis and pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Respectfully submitted, Daryl Matthews, M.D., Ph.D.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha my name is Chris, I'm from the Big Island I believe this bill would help bring much needed job's and revenue to the state, for thing's like school's and state run organization that are in need of much more funding. It can be done safe as Colorado is a perfect example, Colorado projects \$578.1 million a year in combined wholesale and retail marijuana sales to yield \$67 million in tax revenue, according to the Legislative Council of the Colorado General Assembly. So lets make the smarter choice and get are state buck up to speed...Aloha....Chris.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anolani Hanohano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii should capitalize on the funds that can be generated as a source of revenue to support schools and programs in Hawaii. Colorado has shown increase in it's revenues from taxes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:15 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: isaiahchong@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM
Attachments: SB2733.png

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Chong	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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i

From: Isaiah Chong <isaiahchong@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 1:59 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: SB2733 Support 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 waivered 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
Ewa Beach, HI

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2733
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 2733 that proposes to legalize the personal use of marijuana in specified quantities (one ounce or less of marijuana and growing, processing, or transporting of not more than six marijuana plants). Senate Bill 2733 also proposes to establish a licensing scheme for the cultivation, sale, and use of small amounts of marijuana for personal use; taxes marijuana sales in the same manner as state excise taxes; and subject income derived from marijuana sales to state income taxes.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy(ONDCP) which states that the Obama Administration steadfastly opposes legalization of marijuana and other drugs because legalization would increase the availability and use of illicit drugs, and pose significant health and safety risk to all Americans, particularly young people. ONDCP further states that legalization will not solve public health or safety challenges. Research shows that policies that would make drugs more available would likely not eliminate the black market or

improve public health and safety. Recent reports from the nonpartisan RAND Corporation "altered State" discusses how legalization would cause the price of marijuana to plummet, triggering increased use of the drug.

If we examine the Netherlands that has a very liberal drug policy. In the 1970's, after marijuana was normalized, use nearly tripled from 15% to 44% among 18-20 year old Dutch youth from 1984 to 1996. During the same time that teenage drug use was reduced by approximately 50% in the US, the Netherlands saw an increase. Dutch teenage (15 to 16 years) marijuana use is double the European average. It is readily apparent that experimentation with legalizing drugs leads to increased use and all the corresponding harmful consequences. The Netherlands is slowly becoming more restrictive and changing their liberal drug policies. Marijuana "coffee" houses have been reduced by 37% and approximately 70% of all Dutch towns have a zero tolerance policies toward cannabis cafes. The Netherlands is also trying to eliminate marijuana tourist.

Senate Bill 2733 also proposes to tax retail and wholesale marijuana sales, however if we look at Colorado who is having problems collecting these taxes, because banks and credit card companies are, complying with federal law. Marijuana is considered a schedule I controlled substance (illegal drug) by the federal government, and laws such as the Bank Secrecy Act carry severe penalties for banks depositing these funds begotten from the sale of illegal substances. Colorado's retail marijuana stores are unable to deposit any of the cash from sales of this schedule I drug (marijuana) in federally insured banks and

therefor have no bank statements to confirm revenue or deposits to the State. Many of these marijuana related businesses have expressed concern about the robbery risk associated with handling and storing of large amounts of cash at their place of business. Without accurate financial records, licensed businesses are expected to be honest and keep detailed records for Colorado's Department of Revenue, which is subject to inspection. The problem is not only for marijuana retail stores but the State that accepts funds from these retail stores in the form of taxes. Even as the State of Colorado openly banks the very money banks say they're prohibited from accepting — although some acknowledge doing so "quietly" — several state agencies can't exactly explain how it's happening. There are no rules, no memos, no opinions, no laws or anything else that officials can point to that clearly says the state can bank pot-derived income. This places the State in a situation where these funds can be seized by the Federal government.

For these reasons the I respectfully request that Senate Bill 2733 be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberto Leon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Vote no.

Senator Espero, Senator Baker, and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am 24, a recent graduate, and I oppose Senate Bill 2733.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy has the following statement on their webpage:

Marijuana is a topic of significant public discourse in the United States, and while many are familiar with the discussions, it is not always easy to find the latest, research-based information on marijuana to answer to the common questions about its health effects, or the differences between Federal and state laws concerning the drug. Confusing messages being presented by popular culture, media, proponents of "medical" marijuana, and political campaigns to legalize all marijuana use perpetuate the false notion that marijuana is harmless. This significantly diminishes efforts to keep our young people drug free and hampers the struggle of those recovering from addiction.

The Administration steadfastly opposes legalization of marijuana and other drugs because legalization would increase the availability and use of illicit drugs, and pose significant health and safety risks to all Americans, particularly young people.

Furthermore, their website states:

It is important to note that Congress has determined that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that the illegal distribution and sale of marijuana is a serious crime.

(see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/marijuanainfo> for a collection of convincing research that shows the health and economic dangers of legalizing marijuana)

Anyone who approves the legalization of marijuana is approving the legalization of death. I am surprised that we would follow Mainland trends too. There are thousands of addicts out there, especially in the states where this has been legalized. Why is such a no-brainer being brought before us?

To approve this bill would be another lemming decision on the part of our senate, a bandwagon fallacy that if all other states can make a quick buck at the expense of thousands of lives and get away with it, why shouldn't we? Recall Robert Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*. Will you be the hero, Sir Thomas More, who scorned to violate truth? Or will you be the infamous Cardinal Wolsey?

"There is no hope in dope," as the slogan goes. The truth is that a drug is a drug, changing a word doesn't get rid of a serious problem. I can call poison "pretty water" but that doesn't change the fact that it will still, independent of human naming systems, cause harm.

Other reasons to vote NO:

Will hurt Hawaii's state image (and thus hurt the tourist industry):

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/02/legal-marijuana-colorado-poll-103321.html>

Will lead to more addicts:

<http://www.azcentral.com/opinions/articles/20140106colorado-medical-marijuana-impact-children-polk.html>

HRS 291-7, how will DUID be determined?

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/research/job185drugs/cannabis.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Roberto Leon

North Shore resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:24 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: As a healthcare provider, I do not support the arguments for legalizing the smoking of marijuana. If there is a medical need for the components of marijuana, then authorize the prescription of THC for bona fide medical need. As the nation moves towards restriction of tobacco products, I find it irresponsible to allow another smoking product to be legalized. I stand in STRONG OPPOSITION to this measure.

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SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Honorable Chairs Espero and Baker, Vice Chairs, and Senators: I wholeheartedly oppose the legalization of marijuana. It will pose problems to the lifestyle of the people of Hawaii, such as leading to users other drugs, as well as being a health and safety hazard for the community. As a teenager, drug use and other similar issues already cause stress. Legalizing marijuana will compound the situation. Please consider the keiki, and the well being of the people of Hawaii as you review this legislation. Mahalo- Joshua Takeshi Sweet.

To: Chair Will Espero
Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker
Esteemed members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

From: Keith Kenyon

Hearing Info: 2:45 PM, Thursday, February 13, 2014
Rm. 224, Hawaii State Capitol

Re: OPPOSITION to SB2733

Good Afternoon Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs. Please accept my written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2733. I am unable to attend the hearing in person.

Please ask yourselves these questions while considering HB2733:

- 1) What is the real benefit, if any, to our state and our people, if SB2733 is passed?
- 2) What is the cost to our state and our people, if SB2733 is passed?

I've reviewed the draft bill that is posted online and make the following observations:

- 1) The "CONS" to legalizing marijuana are not really highlighted at all in current draft to SB2733. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Marijuana use may have a wide range of effects, particularly on cardiopulmonary and mental health. Marijuana also raises heart rate by 20-100 percent shortly after smoking; this effect can last up to 3 hours. In one study, it was estimated that marijuana users have a 4.8-fold increase in the risk of heart attack in the first hour after smoking the drug. This risk may be greater in older individuals or in those with cardiac vulnerabilities.

Reference: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

Why should we knowingly put the health of our people at risk? Hawaii was just ranked #1 by the United Health Foundation as the healthiest state in America. Let's keep it that way.

Reference: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/>

- 2) Language in SB2733 includes: *"In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, which legalized medical cannabis". AND "The legislature finds increasing public support for the decriminalization of marijuana possession."*

Why don't we put this bill to vote and let Hawaii people determine the actual public support? If we don't, then the verbiage about California voters is at least irrelevant and the claim of public support is NOT substantiated. One county cannot be the deciding group for the whole state.

- 3) *"The legislature further finds that marijuana cultivation and sales hold potential for economic development, increased tax revenues, and reduction in crime."*

I'll give the introducers credit for using the word "potential," but recommend more work and research before taking a leap to legalizing marijuana. Perhaps, let one of the other states test the waters to see what sort of costs they incur [fiscally, legally and socially] Hawaii does NOT have to prove to the world that it is "kicked back." Please refer to our tax-paid health care costs associated with cigarette smokers.

- 4) Question: If SB2733 is passed, could you please consider amending it to further define "publicly"? Reference: *"(d) The possession, growing, processing, or transporting of not more than six marijuana plants, with three or fewer being mature, flowering plants, and possession of the marijuana produced by the plants on the premises where the plants are grown shall not be subject to criminal prosecution; provided that the growing takes place in an enclosed and locked space and is not conducted openly or publicly, and that the plants are not made available for sale."* (emphasis added) Rationale: we have specific language in our current public smoking statutes and I believe marijuana users should be at least as restricted as tobacco users.

- 5) Nothing about marijuana is glorifying to God. I recognize that this observation may or may not be relevant to everybody, but will stand firm in my Faith. If you'd like more information on this observation, please feel free to contact me.

Please do not hastily pass SB2733. Please ONLY pass it to law, if you can honestly say that the benefits outweigh the costs. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Keith Kenyon
92-1505 Makakilo Drive, Kapolei
OPPOSITION

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Y Takeda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not support this bill, we cannot have marijuana easily accessible to our children, youth & young people. We already have huge problems with underage drinking, underage smoking & already have problems with marijuana use & abuse by our youth in our communities. The revenues we will make from taxes on marijuana will not be enough to cover social costs on problems that will arise from marijuana legalization, study shows that the ratio is 1 - 10, between profit & social costs of marijuana legalization. Thank you for your time & support of our youth & families & supporting drug-free Hawaii.

Marijuana abuse & addiction is already a big problem with our youth and families in our communities. The idea of growing marijuana in our backyards is the last thing we need.

If we say spending profits from marijuana to public education is a grand idea? What will we teach our kids in school - yes, we can profit from marijuana to get the best education - at what or whose expense?

We should work on supporting President Obama's Justice Department focus on enforcement on marijuana trafficking and preventing marijuana from getting in the hands of kids, and enforcement priorities to include preventing driving while high and forbidding the cultivation of marijuana. And as the President commented on recent interview, "it is a bad habit and a vice. It's not something I encourage, and I've told my daughters, I think it's a bad idea, a waste of time, not very healthy."

The idea of growing marijuana & making it legal in our State is a total contradiction to our nation's priorities. Just because we think we can make the best marijuana, that it's OK to profit on this. As President Obama further commented, "If marijuana is fully legalized, and at some point folks say, well, we can come up with a negotiated dose of cocaine that we can show is not anymore harmful than vodka, are we open to that? If somebody says, we've got a finely calibrated dose of meth, it isn't going to kill you or rot your teeth, are we OK with that?"

From: Ruth Brown <brownehawaii@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 12:00 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Very Strong Opposition to SB2733

To: Chair Will Espero (Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee)
Chair Rosalyn Baker (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection)
Vice-Chair Brian Taniguchi (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection)
Esteemed Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs and on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Ruth Brown, Waianae
Re: Opposition to SB2733
Hearing: Thursday, February 13th, 2014 at 2:45PM
Rm. 224, State Capitol

Chair Espero, Chair Baker and members of the joint committees at this hearing,

My son was hearing all of his high school friends advocate the legalization of marijuana. As we had discussions he felt secure in his non-use, but was being swayed by the idea that legalization was okay for society to choose. One day I told him, "Son, you have been hearing one side of the argument. You need to research the other side." He did that thoroughly and submitted it for one of his assignments. It is a compelling piece of research by a (then) 16 year old against the legalization of marijuana. The evidence told him that this is one of those issues which should not be opened up if the best interest of society is to be served. I am sorry that my son had done better due diligence than the authors of this bill and the sponsors of this bill.

I strongly oppose SB2733 and the legalization of marijuana. I care about the future of Hawaii and the preservation of a healthy and lawful society.

Ruth Brown
Registered Voter
Waianae

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noura Takeda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do NOT support marijuana legalization. It will negatively impact our schools & community. It will negatively influence & affect our children & youth. Marijuana legalization will create a widespread commercialization of marijuana & our children & young people will be targeted, it will no doubt be marketed to our children & youth in all our communities. Please check out www.learnaboutsam.com to know the facts about marijuana, check out what happened in California & what's happening in Colorado. Please do not legalize marijuana, let's keep Hawaii's ALOHA by being a drug-free state. Mahalo for your time & support our youth & families.

To our respected Legislators:

If you care about crime & public safety, you need to oppose marijuana legalization, because in Colorado, they're already see an increase in social problems & decreased in quality of life.

If you care about academic performance, you need to say NO to marijuana legalization, because marijuana negatively affects motivation, memory and learning. Study shows marijuana chronic use can decrease a young person's IQ up to 8 IQ points.

Marijuana potency is increasing, we cannot talk about marijuana today the same as it was decades ago. In the past 20 years, the average THC level has nearly tripled. Currently, the average level of THC in seized samples is 15.1%, compared to an average of less than 4% in 1983.

Marijuana is being marketed to children, despite the fact that all of the states that have approved medical marijuana or legalized marijuana have regulations restricting its use to those 18 & older, marijuana is clearly being marketed to children in form of edibles.

Marijuana legalization will NOT reduce incarceration rates. According to US Sentencing Commission, in 2008, 6337 people were sentenced in federal court for drug crimes related to marijuana, of these 6337, only 1.6% were sentenced for simple possession of marijuana. And according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only 0.4% of prisoners with no prior offenses are in state prisons for marijuana offenses.

In view of the foregoing facts, please do NOT support marijuana legalization. Marijuana legalization will have concerning negative affects to our families, including our children & our youth.

Respectfully,

Noura Takeda

Respectable legislators,

My name is Zheng Lan, I received my Ph.D. degree of Microbiology from University of Hawaii at Manoa over 10 years ago. I strongly oppose legalization of marijuana in Hawaii. I came from China originally, I know the sad history in 19th century, that western powers used marijuana to make many Chinese as 'sick people in east Asia'.

The top three drugs that are abused by minors are a) cigarettes, b) alcohol and c) prescription pain-killers. The fact that usage of these substances is illegal for minors is not a deterrent to adolescent use. Accessibility is what dictates the likelihood of adolescent usage and this would clearly continue if availability to marijuana is increased as well. The effects of marijuana on a minor however are more sinister since brain development stops until the early or mid-twenties. Recent studies have shown that marijuana usage in a minor will inhibit brain development.

To protect our next generations, please do not let Americans to be 'sick people in the west'.

I urge you to oppose marijuana.

Zheng Lan

From: huang sija <sijialovesbioinformatics@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 9:50 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: oppose SB2733 legalization of Marijuana

To whom it will concern,

In the past, individuals and organizations have used fifth-grade logic to justify the legalization of marijuana. The sad truth that is never addressed is that criminals have wanted their activities legalized since the dawn of time. Pedophiles would like their illicit activities legalized just as much as car thieves, identity thieves and murderers. This brief relies heavily on information gathered by a non-partisan group called Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM). To learn more about them, please go to their website. Here are some of their logical fallacies debunked:

"Everyone does it, so it must be harmless": The sheer fact that everyone does it is logic that is more fitting of a fifth-grader. We can all remember parental mantras at one point or another where we were told, "If your friends jumped off a cliff, would you?" The fact remains that even if a large number of people engage in the usage of marijuana, it will still be illegal. The best example of why this logic does not work is vehicular speeding. Using the same flimsy logic, speeding should also be legalized because everyone does it.

Colorado and Washington just recently legalized marijuana use, and legislators would rather rush into marijuana legalization instead of learning from the mistakes other states made.

"The state just needs to legalize marijuana and it will be alright": Based on testimony both from the Dept. of Justice as well as Director Ted Sakai (State of Hawaii, Department of Public Safety), there is no law that can be passed that will legalize marijuana in Hawaii since federal law would still supersede any state law to the contrary.

"Law enforcement has not worked, so we should legalize it": It is a sad day in society if we legalize an activity solely because law enforcement does not work. If the same attitude were taken, then there are other logical extensions that include the legalization of (a) crystal methamphetamine, (b) organized crime and (c) identity theft. Supporters of marijuana legalization during a previous hearing in the House Judiciary Committee had the audacity to assert that it is not fair to compare marijuana to crystal methamphetamine because marijuana is harmless. But marijuana use is NOT harmless.

"Legalizing marijuana would free up law enforcement officers to pursue more violent offenders": Nearly all individuals arrested for possession and/or use of marijuana are detained for a crime or violation other than marijuana possession. The crime of marijuana possession added only after the fact. This is no different than a speeding driver who gets pulled over and is given additional tickets for an expired registration or driving without insurance. The persecution of marijuana users by law enforcement is an unsubstantiated myth.

“Marijuana use is harmless” and “Marijuana use is a victimless crime”: Both of these assertions are patently false. Marijuana use does pose harm to the individual as well as the rest of society. Impaired motor vehicle use is a top concern regarding the legalization of marijuana. Equally harmful intoxicants like alcohol are linked to incidents of assaults to children, spouses and other family members. Additionally, there are other very serious risks to the individual (as with any other controlled substance) involved using marijuana including addiction & dependence, chronic bronchitis, impairment to learning, attention, memory and reaction time.

“Alcohol is worse than marijuana”: The famous assertion used by Barack Obama is fearfully near-sighted upon closer examination. Both alcohol and marijuana are intoxicants of their own right, but there are legal standards to determine whether an individual is too ‘stoned’ to drive. Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is the gold standard that every state uses to determine if someone has had too much to drink – whether a person is safe and legal to drive is a clear cut case. No similar test or standard exists for marijuana, and SB2733 includes no standard for the safe operation of a vehicle. Trends in Washington State show a 50% increase in incidents of impaired driving after the legalization of marijuana alone.

“Marijuana will not harm children (only people older than 21 could legally do so)”: The top three drugs that are abused by minors are a) cigarettes, b) alcohol and c) prescription pain-killers. The fact that usage of these substances is illegal for minors is not a deterrent to adolescent use. Accessibility is what dictates the likelihood of adolescent usage and this would clearly continue if availability to marijuana is increased as well. The effects of marijuana on a minor however are more sinister since brain development stops until the early or mid-twenties. Recent studies have shown that marijuana usage in a minor will inhibit brain development.

“Taxing marijuana is a great revenue source for government”: This statement fails to account for the massive social costs that marijuana legalization would have on Hawaii. These social costs would come in the form of increased law enforcement, increased hospitalizations related to marijuana use (multiplied by the number of uninsured emergency room visits) and incarceration due to increased marijuana-influenced crime. Quite frankly, no amount of tax money can make up for the death of a single individual lost to a marijuana-related crime. To this day, taxpayers still subsidize the smoking habits of cigarette users through inflated health care costs.

With all of these myths debunked, the legislature still has the audacity to state:

“The legislature further finds that the legalization of marijuana for personal or recreational use is a natural, logical, and reasonable outgrowth of the current science of marijuana and attitude toward marijuana.”

Our legislators should not be educated by individuals under the influence of marijuana and should instead operate on facts.

Best,

Sijia Huang

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Benes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please Oppose this measure.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 2:45 PM

Aloha Committee Chairs and members of both committees,

Position: **Oppose SB 2733**

Most bills that are heard in the legislature have an objective, which is to improve the lives of the citizens of our communities. We hear bills on improving our school system so our youth can learn, controlling tobacco so our rates of cancer can decline, and serving our mentally ill so their risk of harming themselves declines. Yet this bill would like to sell our state out to legalizing marijuana, so that some can get rich, while others are exposed to life endangering effects of this substance.

By legalizing marijuana for personal use, there is a message behind it saying that intelligence among our youth is over rated, mental and physical health of our community isn't a concern of ours, and our roadways should be taken over by impaired drivers.

Which of the following problems do you want in your community?

Decrease in IQ among youth

Large long-term study in New Zealand showed that people who began smoking marijuana heavily in their teens lost an average of 8 points in IQ between age 13 and age 38. Importantly, the lost cognitive abilities were not fully restored in those who quit smoking marijuana as adults. Those who started smoking marijuana in adulthood did not show significant IQ declines.¹

Respiratory Problems

Marijuana smoke is an irritant to the lungs, and frequent marijuana smokers can have many of the same respiratory problems experienced by tobacco smokers, such as daily cough and phlegm production, more frequent acute chest illness, and a heightened risk of lung infections. One study found that people who smoke marijuana frequently but do not smoke tobacco have more health problems and miss more days of work than those who don't smoke marijuana, mainly because of

¹ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

respiratory illnesses. It is not yet known whether marijuana smoking contributes to risk for lung cancer.²

Cardiovascular Problems

Marijuana also raises heart rate by 20-100 percent shortly after smoking; this effect can last up to 3 hours. In one study, it was estimated that marijuana users have a 4.8-fold increase in the risk of heart attack in the first hour after smoking the drug. This risk may be greater in older individuals or in those with cardiac vulnerabilities.³

Mental Health Problems

A number of studies have linked chronic marijuana use and mental illness. High doses of marijuana can produce a temporary psychotic reaction (involving hallucinations and paranoia) in some users, and using marijuana can worsen the course of illness in patients with schizophrenia. A series of large studies following users across time also showed a link between marijuana use and later development of psychosis. This relationship was influenced by genetic variables as well as the amount of drug used, drug potency, and the age at which it was first taken—those who start young are at increased risk for later problems.⁴

Impaired Driving Problems

After alcohol, THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the active ingredient in marijuana, is the substance most commonly found in the blood of impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims. Studies in several localities have found that approximately 4 to 14 percent of drivers who sustained injury or died in traffic accidents tested positive for THC.

A study of over 3,000 fatally injured drivers in Australia showed that when THC was present in the blood of the driver, he or she was much more likely to be at fault for the accident. Additionally, the higher the THC concentration, the more likely the driver was to be culpable.

Considerable evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicates that marijuana can negatively affect a driver's attentiveness, perception of time and speed, and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences. Research shows that impairment increases significantly when marijuana use is combined with alcohol.⁵

² <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

³ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

⁴ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

⁵ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/drugged-driving>

In Hawaii, almost half of drivers involved in fatal car crashes tested positive for either alcohol or drugs. Out of the 288 drivers who died in a motor vehicle crash from 2007-2010:

114 tested positive for alcohol

42 tested positive for THC

28 tested positive for stimulants (12 methamphetamine)

6 tested positive for amphetamine

13 tested positive for cocaine⁶

Because marijuana impairs judgment and motor coordination and slows reaction time, an intoxicated person has an increased chance of being involved in and being responsible for an accident.^{7 8}

Big Tobacco, Big Alcohol, Now Big Marijuana Problems

With a law that could be potentially irreversible if passed, we would have to take recreational use along with its industry and its commercialism. We already know the alcohol industry and tobacco industry spend large portions of their budgets targeting minorities and youth. Do we want to see the same in our neighborhoods in regards to marijuana?

Please oppose legalizing marijuana for personal use.

Mahalo for your time,

Kari Benes
Kaimuki Resident

⁶ Injuries in Hawaii, 2007-2011. Hawaii State Department of Health.

⁷ O'Malley, P.M., and Johnston, L.D. *Drugs and driving by American high school seniors, 2001-2006.* J Stud Alcohol Drugs 68(6):834-842, 2007.

⁸ Richer, I., and Bergeron, J. *Driving under the influence of cannabis: Links with dangerous driving, psychological predictors, and accident involvement.* Accid Anal Prev 41(2):299-307, 2009.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 2:45 PM

Aloha Committee Chairs and members of both committees,

Position: **Oppose SB 2733**

Most bills that are heard in the legislature have an objective, which is to improve the lives of the citizens of our communities. We hear bills on improving our school system so our youth can learn, controlling tobacco so our rates of cancer can decline, and serving our mentally ill so their risk of harming themselves declines. Yet this bill would like to sell our state out to legalizing marijuana, so that some can get rich, while others are exposed to life endangering effects of this substance.

By legalizing marijuana for personal use, there is a message behind it saying that intelligence among our youth is over rated, mental and physical health of our community isn't a concern of ours, and our roadways should be taken over by impaired drivers.

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who don't smoke marijuana, mainly because of respiratory illnesses. It is not yet known whether marijuana smoking contributes to risk for lung cancer.²

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Marijuana also raises heart rate by 20-100 percent shortly after smoking; this effect can last up to 3 hours. In one study, it was estimated that marijuana users have a 4.8-fold increase in the risk of heart attack in the first hour after smoking the drug. This risk may be greater in older individuals or in those with cardiac vulnerabilities.³

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A number of studies have linked chronic marijuana use and mental illness. High doses of marijuana can produce a temporary psychotic reaction (involving hallucinations and paranoia) in some users, and using marijuana can worsen the course of illness in patients with schizophrenia. A series of large studies following users across time also showed a link between marijuana use and later development of psychosis. This relationship was influenced by genetic variables as well as the amount of drug used, drug potency, and the age at which it was first taken—those who start young are at increased risk for later problems.⁴

Impaired Driving Problems

After alcohol, THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the active ingredient in marijuana, is the substance most commonly found in the blood of impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims. Studies in several localities have found that approximately 4 to 14 percent of drivers who sustained injury or died in traffic accidents tested positive for THC.

A study of over 3,000 fatally injured drivers in Australia showed that when THC was present in the blood of the driver, he or she was much more likely to be at fault for the accident. Additionally, the higher the THC concentration, the more likely the driver was to be culpable.

Considerable evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicates that marijuana can negatively affect a driver's attentiveness, perception of time and speed, and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences. Research shows that impairment increases significantly when marijuana use is combined with alcohol.⁵

² <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

³ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

⁴ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

⁵ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/drugged-driving>

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Big Tobacco, Big Alcohol, Now Big Marijuana Problems

With a law that could be potentially irreversible if passed, we would have to take recreational use along with its industry and its commercialism. We already know the alcohol industry and tobacco industry spend large portions of their budgets targeting minorities and youth. Do we want to see the same in our neighborhoods in regards to marijuana?

Please oppose legalizing marijuana for personal use.

Mahalo for your time,

Jennifer Swearingen
Mililani, Hawaii

⁶ Injuries in Hawaii, 2007-2011. Hawaii State Department of Health.

⁷ O'Malley, P.M., and Johnston, L.D. *Drugs and driving by American high school seniors, 2001-2006*. J Stud Alcohol Drugs 68(6):834-842, 2007.

⁸ Richer, I., and Bergeron, J. *Driving under the influence of cannabis: Links with dangerous driving, psychological predictors, and accident involvement*. Accid Anal Prev 41(2):299-307, 2009.

Aloha, Senator *Esperó*,

I am writing to you to strongly oppose legalization of Marijuana use for recreational use(SB 2733).

As a family health care provider, I have deep concern on the safety of recreational use of Marijuana.

Marijuana affects brain development, and when it is used heavily by young people, its effects on thinking and memory may last a long time or even be permanent. A large long-term study in New Zealand showed that people who began smoking marijuana heavily in their teens lost an average of 8 points in IQ between age 13 and age 38(NIDA). Laws that prohibit the use or possession of alcohol and cigarettes by minors have not prevented its use by under-aged individuals. In fact, the top three drugs abused by minors are a) alcohol, b) cigarettes and c) prescription drugs, all of which have controls on them. The accessibility of these controlled substances is what has made them the three most abused drugs by minors. SB 2733 will increase the accessibility of Marijuana to our youth.

Marijuana use have wide range of effects, particularly on heart, lung and mental health. Marijuana plant contains hundreds of chemical compounds that may have different effects and that vary from plant to plant(NIDA). Marijuana smoke is an irritant to the lungs, frequent marijuana smokers can have many respiratory problems. And it was estimated that marijuana users have a 4.8-fold increase in the risk of heart attack in the first hour after smoking the drug. This risk maybe greater in older individuals or in those with cardiac vulnerabilities(NIDA). A number of studies have linked chronic marijuana use and mental illness. High doses of marijuana can produce a temporary psychotic reaction(involving hallucinations and paranoia) in some users and it can worsen the course of illness in patients with schizophrenia. Associations have also been found between marijuana use and other mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts among adolescents, and personality disturbances(NIDA).

Legalizing recreational Marijuana use is not wise for the health of Hawaii's youth, people and Hawaii's future. Please vote NO on SB 2733.

Sincerely,

Min Zhu

APRN, MSN, FNP, CCRN

Honolulu, HI

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa-Kim Tom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Marijuana (MJ) legalization will NOT increased state revenue: - Taxes on MJ will never pay for the increased social costs that will result from more users. Our nation's experiences with alcohol & tobacco show that for every dollar (\$1) gained in in taxes, we spent \$10 on social costs. - Legalizing MJ will open the doors to a "gray-market" which will thrive under legalization in order to undercut the legal, taxed market. That is why the criminal market will not disappear under legalization. - According to a recent RAND study, legalization will cause the price off marijuana to fall and so, it's use to rise, especially among YOUTH. MJ legalization will NOT reduce incarceration rates - According to the United States Sentencing Commission, in 2008, 6337 people were sentenced in federal court for drug crimes related to marijuana. Of these 6337 only 1.6% were sentenced for simple possession of MJ. - According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only 0.4% of prisoners with no prior offenses are in state prisons for MJ offenses. Marijuana is harmful to CHILDREN: - Between 2005 and 2009, none of poisonings in children under 12 at the Children's Hospital of Colorado involved MJ, since 2009, 2% of poisonings in CHILDREN under 12 involved MJ. MJ is being marketed to children: -Despite the fact that all of the states that have approved "medical marijuana" initiatives or legalized MJ have regualtions restricting its use to 18 & older, MJ is clearly marketed to children in the form of edibles. MJ potency is increasing: - We cannot talk about MJ now as the same product from decades ago, in the last 20 years, the average THC level has already tripled. Currently, the average level of THC in seized samples is 15.1% - this compares to an average of less than 4% in 1983. MJ legalization will increase access & availability: - States with medical marijuana laws (more so in states MJ is legalized) implemented to include home cultivation and legal dispensaries are associated with increased MJ use in these states. MJ use negatively impacts IQ: - A recent study found that those who used MJ heavily in their teens and continued through adulthood showed a permanent drop in IQ of 8 points. A loss of 8 IQ points could drop a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the intelligence range. MJ use negatively impacts educational achievement: -Youth with an average grade of D or below were more than 4 times as likely to have used MJ in the past year, as youth with an average grade of A. - High school students who use alcohol or other drugs are up to 5 times more likely to drop out of school. MJ use negatively impacts school environment _ 66.1% of serious disciplinary actions in public high schools can be attributed to the distribution, possession or use of illegal drugs. Marijuana is addictive - There are now scientific studies that support MJ is addictive. - 1 in 11 people who ever start using marijuana become addicted. In adolescence, the addiction rates jumps to 1 to 6. Increased use lead to higher addiction rates.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Shimabukuro	business	Oppose	No

Comments: Marijuana is the number one drug for treatment admissions in Hawaii and many other states. Legalizing marijuana will create more addicts among adults and especially our youth. I strongly oppose this bill.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Very bad idea.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I do not support this bill.

From: Abel Malczon <malczona001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:24 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Opposition to SB2733

To: Chair Will Espero (Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee)
Chair Rosalyn Baker (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection)
Vice-Chair Brian Taniguchi (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection)
Esteemed Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Vivian Malczon, Ewa Beach

Re: Opposition to SB2733

Hearing: Thursday, February 13th, 2014 at 2:45PM
Rm. 224, State Capitol

Aloha Chair Espero, Chair Baker and esteemed members of the joint committees at this hearing, Thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION of SB2733. A critical review of available research and arguments has failed to demonstrate a single valid reason why a controlled substance like marijuana should be legalized in the State of Hawaii.

Since time immemorial, criminals have wanted their activities to be legalized – and I am sure that there would be wildly popular testimony on a bill to repeal speed limits or to stop fining jaywalkers. The legalization of marijuana is no different, and the logic that supporters use to substantiate their position can be seen as ‘juvenile’ at best – better suited to a fifth grader than an adult attempting to shape public policy.

I take great offense when supporters use flimsy arguments like:

- “Everyone does it, so it must be harmless”

- “The state just needs to legalize marijuana, and it will be alright” (even though federal law would still prohibit it).

- “Law enforcement has not worked, so we should legalize it”

- “Legalizing marijuana would free up law enforcement officers to pursue more violent offenders”

- “Marijuana use is harmless” or “Marijuana is a victimless crime”

- “Alcohol is worse than marijuana”

- “Marijuana will not hurt children (only people older than 21 could legally do so)”

- “Taxing marijuana would be a great revenue source for government”

All of these arguments have been thoroughly debunked. But if there was a single reason why marijuana should not be legalized, it should not be legalized for the children.

Laws that prohibit the use or possession of alcohol and cigarettes by minors have not prevented its use by under-aged individuals. In fact, the top three drugs abused by minors are a) alcohol, b) cigarettes and c) prescription drugs, all of which have controls on them. The accessibility of these controlled substances is what has made them the three most abused drugs by minors. The usage of marijuana by minors is particularly

disturbing because brain development in children does not finish until early- or mid-20s. Marijuana use by minors would irreparably halt brain development that will place them at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives.

Additionally, there is no test to determine whether a marijuana user is too impaired to operate a motor vehicle. While there are similar standards that are used to prosecute alcohol users who are impaired when they drive a car, there is no similar test or standard that can be used to prosecute a marijuana user that is impaired. Too often marijuana users have testified by saying "Trust me, I will not drive impaired". I don't. I do not trust them any more than an alcoholic or a methamphetamine addict. SB2733 is woefully lacking because it does not address intoxicated drivers.

It is for these reasons, and the adverse effects it has on public health that I oppose SB2733 and the legalization of marijuana. I care about the children, and I care about the future of Hawaii.

Vivian Malczon
Registered Voter of Ewa Beach

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Keep Hawai'i clean!

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Rorie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To: Chair Will Espero (Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee) Chair Rosalyn Baker (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection) Vice-Chair Brian Taniguchi (Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection) Esteemed Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and on Commerce and Consumer Protection From: Patrick Rorie, Aiea, HI, prorieandmnt@gmail.com Re: Opposition to SB2733 Hearing: Thursday, February 13th, 2014 at 2:45PM Rm. 224, State Capitol Aloha Chair Espero, Chair Baker and esteemed members of the joint committees at this hearing, Thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION of SB2733. A critical review of available research and arguments has failed to demonstrate a single valid reason why a controlled substance like marijuana should be legalized in the State of Hawaii. Since time immemorial, criminals have wanted their activities to be legalized – and I am sure that there would be wildly popular testimony on a bill to repeal speed limits or to stop fining jaywalkers. The legalization of marijuana is no different, and the logic that supporters use to substantiate their position can be seen as ‘juvenile’ at best – better suited to a fifth grader than an adult attempting to shape public policy. I take great offense when supporters use flimsy arguments like: • “Everyone does it, so it must be harmless” • “The state just needs to legalize marijuana, and it will be alright” (even though federal law would still prohibit it). • “Law enforcement has not worked, so we should legalize it” • “Legalizing marijuana would free up law enforcement officers to pursue more violent offenders” • “Marijuana use is harmless” or “Marijuana is a victimless crime” • “Alcohol is worse than marijuana” • “Marijuana will not hurt children (only people older than 21 could legally do so)” • “Taxing marijuana would be a great revenue source for government” All of these arguments have been thoroughly debunked. But if there was a single reason why marijuana should not be legalized, it should not be legalized for the children. Laws that prohibit the use or possession of alcohol and cigarettes by minors have not prevented its use by under-aged individuals. In fact, the top three drugs abused by minors are a) alcohol, b) cigarettes and c) prescription drugs, all of which have controls on them. The accessibility of these controlled substances is what has made them the three most abused drugs by minors. The usage of marijuana by minors is particularly disturbing because brain development in children does not finish until early- or mid-20s. Marijuana use by minors would irreparably halt brain development that will place them at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives. Additionally, there is no test to determine whether a marijuana user is too impaired to operate a motor vehicle. While there are similar standards that are used to prosecute alcohol users who are impaired when they drive a car, there is no similar test or standard that can be used to prosecute a marijuana user that is impaired. Too often

marijuana users have testified by saying "Trust me, I will not drive impaired". I don't. I do not trust them any more than an alcoholic or a methamphetamine addict. SB2733 is woefully lacking because it does not address intoxicated drivers. It is for these reasons, and the adverse effects it has on public health that I oppose SB2733 and the legalization of marijuana. I care about the children, and I care about the future of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration. God bless you! Patrick Rorie (Hawaii resident for over 25 years, residing in Aiea, HI)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:43 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: elecbuyer@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM*

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Katto	Individual	Oppose	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:01 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: eublalock@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2733 on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth blalock	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: American citizens have been allowed to drink alcohol in almost all localities but for the clearly unwise period of prohibition. Our public coffers have benefitted from the taxes imposed on the sale and importation. Misuse in public has been controlled by laws against driving while impaired or public drunkenness. Marijuana is preferred by some for the relief of stress and elevation of mood it affords. It does not promote aggressive behavior. It has not been shown to be a 'gateway drug' though those who buy it of necessity are in contact with a criminal element, perhaps purveyors of 'hard drugs'. The deleterious effects of alcohol on health do not exist with marijuana. The addictive potential is low to nonexistent, depending on how you define addiction - nicotine and alcohol, both legal, are far worse. People of color have been incarcerated at rates far higher for the same 'criminal' behavior. The rate of incarceration - the highest in the world, are an embarrassment and a huge financial and social burden. Our citizenry has heard these sorts of arguments and the ever increasing majority feel marijuana should be legal for medical and recreational use. It is time for our legislators to stand up for us. I do feel that just as prescription drugs should look like medicine, not candy, marijuana should not be allowed to be packaged in any form that might be mis-taken as food.

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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SB2733

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan McRoberts	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Prohibition of alcohol failed. Prohibition of cannabis is failing and causing the same criminal activity that was created by alcohol prohibition. By legalizing cannabis it will eliminate a great deal of crime while not really increasing the availability. Anybody who wants to buy cannabis can easily find it. It is sold by criminals and supports other illegal activity. You can tax the sale and use some of the funds to support factually based drug education classes as opposed to the ineffective "Just Say No" campaigns.

SB2733

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for PSM/CPN on Feb 13, 2014 14:45PM 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