

A ^{the} Drug Policy Action Group

A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
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Hawaii's Voice for Sensible, Compassionate, and Just Drug Policy

LATE

TO: SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH

FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, M.P.H., PRESIDENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2016, 8:30 a.m., ROOM 229

RE: S.B. 2177 RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA – **IN SUPPORT**

Good morning, Chairs Nishihara & Chair Baker; Vice Chairs Espero and Kidani, and members of the Committees. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm President of the Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG), the government affairs arm of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.

DPAG is in strong support of this measure, which addresses a concern, expressed by many patients - whether new or existing. The first two paragraphs of this measure explain the dilemma well. While it is true that at present the wait time for receipt of a new card is reported to be about two weeks, this is not a static situation. As the number of applicants for a medical marijuana card inevitably grows in anticipation of the opening of dispensaries, there will be a much higher volume of applications to process.

Having a receipt to serve as a temporary registration card will give great peace of mind to many patients. Some of them may be postponing critical health procedures such as chemotherapy until they have official word that they are permitted to do so. Most of the qualifying patients are reluctant to break the law. This is, after all, why they are seeking a card in the first place.

In Section 3 the addition of a \$2500 fine along with a misdemeanor charge for a physician who fraudulently misrepresents "any fact or circumstance" surrounding the issuance of a certificate seems quite harsh. Perhaps if the word "knowing" was inserted before misrepresentation this would make more sense and remove some ambiguity.

Notwithstanding this reservation, we urge this committee to move the measure on to on WAM. Mahalo for hearing this measure today and for giving us the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:13 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: andreatischler@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2177 on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM

Categories: Late

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SB2177

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for CPH/PSM on Feb 11, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Tischler	Americans for Safe Access Big Island Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Big Island Chapter of Americans for Safe Access support this bill as it will give a greater safety and sense of security to patients that worry that their certification has run out and have not yet received a new certification. This bill represents no greater expense and provides assurance that the "card is in the mail".

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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