



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by
Calvin Ching
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 708, Relating to Marijuana.

Purpose: Establishes a civil penalty for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana or marijuana concentrate that is subject to a fine of not more than \$100. Makes various conforming amendments to statutes to reflect the establishment of the civil violation for possession of marijuana or marijuana concentrate of one ounce or less.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary, while recognizing the important societal aspects of this bill takes no position on the merits of the bill. However, the Judiciary is concerned about the impact the proposed bill will have on the operations of the District Courts and has the following comments regarding the complexities of implementing the proposed legislation should it become law.

- 1) Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 701-107 (5) provides the definition of a violation. Although a violation does not constitute a crime, it constitutes a penal offense which is processed in the courts in the same manner as a crime. A defendant is required to appear in court, be arraigned, enter a plea, have a trial if plea is not guilty and be sentenced if there is a conviction. The District Courts easily process these violations using existing criminal procedures. Therefore, the purpose of this bill may be better achieved without the necessity of creating a new system for adjudicating a "civil



violation,” by redefining the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana as a violation. HRS Section 701-107 (5) provides that:

(5) An offense defined by this Code or by any other statute of this State constitutes a violation if it is so designated in this Code or in the law defining the offense or if no other sentence than a fine, or fine and forfeiture or other civil penalty, is authorized upon conviction or if it is defined by a statute other than this Code, which provides that the offense shall not constitute a crime. **A violation does not constitute a crime, and conviction of a violation shall not give rise to any civil disability based on conviction of a criminal offense.** (Emphasis added.)

- 2) As written, the bill will require the creation of a new citation book, or modification of existing citation books, to provide for this single type of civil violation. The Judiciary is currently responsible for creating, printing and distribution of citation books to law enforcement. Therefore, additional printing costs for the Judiciary will be incurred should this bill become law. For example, the Judiciary recently printed 80,000 new citations (a total of 4,000 books containing 20 citations in each book) for the First Circuit, at a cost of \$12,408. Similarly, additional costs would be incurred to provide citation books for the Second, Third, and Fifth Circuits making the total estimated cost close to \$24,000.
- 3) The creation of a new “civil violation” may necessitate the need to modify existing electronic case management systems to provide for data entry of the charge as a civil violation rather than a penal offense. For example, modifications to the case management system would need to address such issues as the creation of civil violations and the automatic printing of default judgments. In addition, as these are civil fines, the methodology to transfer the outstanding fines would need to be developed for transmittal to a collections agency. While the costs related to creating the new civil violation are difficult to estimate, there will be costs to make adjustments to the JIMS case management system and such adjustments will likely be significant and possibly cause delay in the implementation of ongoing JIMS projects. (See Attachment A)
- 4) Statewide, it is not likely that the number of charged cases for possession of small amounts of marijuana is sufficient to warrant the creation of a civil violation scheme. (See Attachment B)
- 5) Should this bill be enacted, the Judiciary requests that the Legislature afford the Judiciary time to address these and other issues related to the implementation of this bill. A suggested date of January 2017 provides the Judiciary with the time to address these operational, logistical and technology issues.



Senate Bill No. 708, Relating to Marijuana
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Thursday, February 26, 2015
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

ATTACHMENT A

Marijuana / Civil Infractions

Calendar Year 2013

1D	HRS 712-1249	327
1D	HRS 712-1246.5	5
1D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	3
	Total	335
2D	HRS 712-1246.5	3
2D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	16
2D	HRS 712-1249	10
	Total	29
3D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	13
3D	HRS 712-1249	42
3D	HRS 712-1246.5	5
	Total	60
5D	HRS 712-1246.5	3
5D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	5
5D	HRS 712-1249	55
	Total	63

Grand Total 487**Calendar Year 2014**

1D	HRS 712-1246.5	10
1D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	2
1D	HRS 712-1249	419
	Total	431
2D	HRS 712-1249	33
2D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	5
2D	HRS 712-1246.5	2
	Total	40
3D	HRS 712-1249	28
3D	HRS 712-1246.5	3
3D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	7
	Total	38
5D	HRS 712-1246.5	1
5D	HRS 712-1249	58
5D	HRS 712-1248(1)(c)	3
	Total	62

Grand Total 571

The above are counts of cases that were initiated with one or possible more of the three charge codes shown.

ATTACHMENT B

Decriminalization of Marijuana in JIMS

Initial Analysis

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1. Requirement

Initial analysis on leg proposed bill to decriminalize marijuana impacting JIMS.

2. Initial Analysis

- HAJIS : HAJIS system was considered to implement the changes as the new citations are to be treated as civil citations. However the bill provides for the payment of the fine to be done via internet or phone. Since HAJIS currently does not have this facility , we cannot implement this in HAJIS.
- Using case type CC : Discussed the possibility of including the Criminal citation type in portal . However this cannot be used as CC case types do not have accounting piece in it . Any changes will impact existing criminal citations as well. Also statistical data may not be correct.
- Using case type TI : Discussed the possibilities of using the TI case type for these violations. For TI case types, we may not need any changes to oracle forms or e-traffic and IVR for payments. However the impact will be on all interfaces which need to be reviewed to exclude the cases in scope. Also, the terminology of traffic infraction itself is in contradiction to the bill which clearly mentions these cases to be Civil citations. This would impact statistical data for TI cases.

3. Proposed Solution

1. New case type creation :
 - A) Portal : Creating a new case type itself is a simple change however to create new case ids based on this case type will require analysis.
 - B) Oracle forms: As per Dana , new case type creation can be done with using Control forms however this needs to be verified.
2. New case creation :
 - A) Portal : Creating a new case of a new case type will involve including the accounting piece while case creation as we need the new case types to be payable by e-traffic and IVR.
 - B) Oracle forms : Creating a new case of the new case type in oracle forms will involve in-depth analysis on whether this can be done without any code changes. Depending on the analysis we may require code changes to case creation in Oracle forms.
3. Over the counter payments :
 - A) Portal : Portal currently does not have any ability to accept payments. The entire accounting piece for accepting payments over the counter need to be set up . This is as good as building 'accounting' system for portal.
 - B) Oracle forms : Needs in-depth analysis on whether the new case type can be set up to be accessible by the existing payment screens in forms without any code changes. Depending on the analysis we may require code changes to include the new case type in the payment screens in Oracle forms.
4. New predecessor (Pred) code for the new charge code:
 - A) Portal : Need analysis to see what changes are required to set up a new predecessor code. New charge codes can be set up through the application.
 - B) Oracle forms: If functionality achieve in Portal , Oracle forms may not need any change.
5. Changes to e-traffic and IVR

- A) JIMS database procedures will require changes to send data to HIC and IVR for the new case type and update the accounting tables based on the information received from HIC/IVR. These changes will have to happen along with changes to e-traffic system by HIC and IVR system by First Data.
- 6. Changes to DJ generation :
 - A) Portal : will undergo changes to include the new case type for DJ generation.
 - B) Oracle forms : Will undergo changes to the Letter merge screen to include the DJ generation for the new case type .If DJ changes are given through portal this may not be need be required even if other changes are done using the portal.
- 7. Changes to the DJ ODP :
 - A) Portal : Depending upon the business need the wording of the existing DJ may have to be changed or a new DJ may have to be created for new case type.
 - B) Oracle forms : If a new DJ is required , then will involve more changes in the Letter merge forms. If functionality provide through Portal , oracle form changes may not be required.
- 8. Changes to the Collections interface :
 - A) Batch job for collections : will undergo changes to include the new case type while sending the collections data to MSB and also while receiving the file back from them.
- 9. Reports
 - A) Fiscal reports requires changes to include data from the new case types. Depending on business need, may have to create new reports as well.

4. Scope

- Analysis, coding and Testing , deployment
- Coordination with third party HIC and First Data for interface / reports

5. Assumption

- New Case type creation is possible through Oracle with no additional code changes / testing
- Fees collection / payment will be supported using existing Oracle forms by just adding new case type (parameterization) and with no code change
- Entire GL process will be just parameterized and no code changes required for new case type added
- First data will modify IVR system & HIC will modify 'eTraffic' system and are in agreement with our schedule for integration testing / deployment in production
- No effort any analyzing, modifying, testing of existing JIMS interface(s).
- Need detailed functional information on Oracle Form undergoing changes

6. Challenges

- Limited knowledge on accounting /GL system as IGATE has not worked earlier
- Oracle Forms – identifying correct version
- Abiding schedule by different vendor working on this initiative(IGATE, First Data, other interface agencies)
- Setting up complex business rules with extensive testing for GL interface

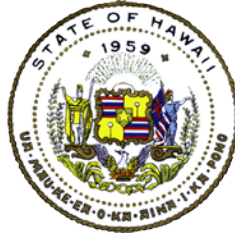
7. Rough estimation – Cost / Schedule

Considering extremely limited time for analysis, our estimation is based on information we collected in couple of hours.

The actual schedule and cost may vary 30 to 40 % or beyond, once we have detailed information.

With current assumption and risk, we assume minimum period of 6-7 months for design, development and testing. It may extend to 2-3 additional months as we expect major business rule for accounting system to be implemented.

The cost comes to **\$850K** with minimum **7 months** schedule.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

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ADMINISTRATION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CORRECTIONS

Shawn H. Tsuha
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 708
RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 09:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **opposes** Senate Bill (SB) 708 which would establish a civil penalty for the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana or marijuana concentrate, subject to a fine of not more than \$100, on the basis that illegal drugs should not be dealt with like a traffic violation, wherein an offender can just pay the fine resulting in no criminal violation.

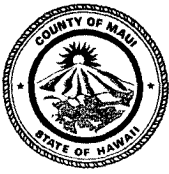
The civil penalty in SB 708 would apply to marijuana concentrate, as well as, marijuana. The PSD notes these are two very different substances – the concentration of the active ingredient of THC can be as high as 90% in marijuana concentrate, e.g., (Butane Hash Oil or BHO, which is used in E-cigarettes and edibles). The use of the high-THC marijuana concentrates can lead to psychosis and schizophrenia in addition to the possible exposure to fire and explosions during the extraction process. We would ask the Committee to not paint the two with the same broad brush and remove references to marijuana concentrate in the bill.

The PSD is also concerned about Section 2 of SB 708 which increases the threshold to “more than one ounce” of marijuana or marijuana concentrate for a teacher, official or other Department of Education employee to be required to report a crime-

related incident on or near school property. The PSD believes that marijuana possession, use and trafficking in any amount should continue to be strictly discouraged in or around schools. To do otherwise would serve to encourage our kids to possess or use an illegal substance with impunity and send the wrong message to the youth and citizens of Hawaii.

For these reasons the PSD cannot support Senate Bill 708 and asks that it be held in Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
(808) 244-6400
FAX (808) 244-6411



TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 26, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill No. 708, RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department **OPPOSES** the current draft of S.B. No. 708.

This bill proposes to establish a civil penalty for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana or marijuana concentrate that is subject to a fine of not more than \$100, and makes various conforming amendments to statutes to reflect the establishment of the civil violation for possession of marijuana or marijuana concentrate of one ounce or less.

The Maui Police Department opposes this measure as it makes light of a criminal act, comparing it to a traffic citation with a minimal fine. The proposed bill will have a minimal fine that an offender can pay over and over again with no increase or fear of repercussion. It will not ease the court system as believed because there will still be some offenders who will not pay the fine and a warrant for their arrest will be issued.

The language also includes the possession of one ounce of marijuana concentrates that have THC concentrates as high as 90%. Levels of THC that high have caused schizophrenia and psychosis that have led to extended hospital stays, permanent brain damage, injuries and death (via accidents or suicide). Also the extraction process in which BHO (Butane Honey Oil) is produced has caused fire and explosions causing injuries and damages due to the highly flammable chemicals used.

Section 2 of this bill will remove the reporting requirements of employees of the Department of Education. This will encourage students to deal or possess less than one ounce of marijuana in schools as it will not be reported. Furthermore, most students in schools that are caught dealing marijuana do not possess more than an ounce of marijuana and will continue to deal without fear or consequence.

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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Section 3 amends Hawaii's medical Use of Marijuana Program, and is not necessary to protect patients and caregivers from prosecution of possession of medical marijuana.

The existing language in HRS § 706-622.5, gives the courts the latitude to sentence the first time drug offender to probation, and even expunge their criminal records if they do not re-offend.

For those reasons the Maui Police Department asks that you OPPOSE S.B. No. 708.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE JK-TA

February 26, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 708, Relating to Marijuana

I am Jason Kawabata, Captain of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 708, Relating to Marijuana.

This bill seeks to amend Chapter 329, Uniformed Controlled Substances Act, and Chapter 712, Part IV, Offenses Related to Drugs and Intoxicating Compounds, Hawaii Revised Statutes. If passed, the amendments would result in the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana becoming a civil violation subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.

The bill makes the intentional or knowing possession by a person of one ounce or less of marijuana a violation. The bill also would take away the court's authority to require defendants who violate probation to complete a substance abuse program for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana. The court should be allowed the option of mandating substance abuse treatment for these defendants.

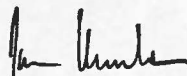
The HPD is not opposed to levying a fine for first-time offenders. However, sentencing should also include mandatory substance abuse treatment, as it would be in the person's and community's best interest if addiction is treated at its earliest possible stage. In addition, repeat offenders should be subject to increasing penalties.

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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February 26, 2015

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 708, Relating to Marijuana.

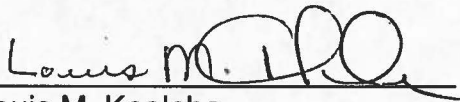
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jason Kawabata, Captain
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



Louis M. Kealoha
Chief of Police

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII POLICE DEPARTMENT

SENATE BILL 708

RELATING TO MARIJUANA

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE : Thursday, February 26, 2015

TIME : 9:00 A.M.

PLACE : Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

PERSON TESTIFYING:

Police Chief Harry S. Kubojiri
Hawaii Police Department
County of Hawaii

(Written Testimony Only)

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
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 24, 2015

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee On Judiciary and Labor
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 708 Relating to Marijuana

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran:

The Hawai'i Police Department strongly opposes passage of Senate Bill 708, relating to Marijuana. The stated intent of this legislation is to establish a civil penalty for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana or marijuana concentrate that is subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

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

Further, this particular legislation contains language that would no longer mandate reporting requirements for the Department of Education with regards to **Marijuana cases in the schools unless it involved more than one ounce**. So again, the message being, we will tolerate up to an ounce of Marijuana in our schools.

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

The Hawai'i Police Department is unable to overlook the results of a recent study by the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health which gathered data from six states – California, **Hawaii**, Illinois, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and West Virginia which are states

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Re: Senate Bill 708 Relating to Marijuana

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that perform toxicology tests on drivers involved in fatal car crashes between 1999 and 2010. Dr. Guohua Li, director of the Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention at Columbia, and co-author of the study has reported that alcohol contributed to about 40 percent of traffic fatalities throughout the decade.

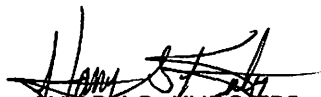
The researchers found that drugs played an increasing role in fatal traffic accidents. Drugged driving accounted for more than 28 percent of traffic deaths in 2010, which is 16 percent more than it was in 1999.

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

Lastly, we are hard-pressed to ignore the recent 2015 statements by eight former heads of the DEA and four former heads of the Office of National Drug Control Policy urging the federal government to nullify the recent votes in Colorado and Washington with regards to legalization/decriminalization.

For these reasons, we urge this committee on behalf of the community we serve to reject this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to testify on Senate Bill No. 708.

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOYIRI
POLICE CHIEF

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai`i

February 26, 2015

RE: S.B. 708; RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in strong opposition to S.B. 708.

This bill proposes to decrease possession of one ounce of marijuana concentrates to a “parking-ticket” type of offense, with a maximum fine of \$100. The Department is gravely concerned by this proposition, as these substances can be exponentially more potent than marijuana, and may contain as much as 80% tetrahydrocannabinol (“THC”) by weight; THC is the psychoactive component of marijuana. Currently, possession of less than one-eighth ounce of marijuana concentrates is a class C felony, and possession of more than one-eighth ounce but less than one ounce is a class B felony. To drop the regulation of such a highly controlled substance so drastically would not only invite increased abuse, but would also present a much higher risk to public safety and welfare.

Possession of (non-concentrate) marijuana is also of great concern, though quite different from possession of marijuana concentrates. Under Section 712-1249, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), possession of less than one ounce of marijuana is currently a petty misdemeanor, the absolute lowest level of crime by Hawaii’s standards. This is the same classification that applies to being in a public park after closing hours, or possessing an unsealed container of liquor in public.

While it is possible violation of HRS §712-1249 to result in jail-time, this is actually very rare, aside from any possible holding-time while a defendant awaits their first hearing. Indeed, many of these offenders may not require jail-time; however, the petty misdemeanor classification

is the lowest classification that allows our courts to impose assessments, treatment and oversight for potential substance abuse, when necessary.

If S.B. 708 is allowed to pass, not only will the courts lose all of those options entirely—even for marijuana concentrates—but the Legislature will essentially be sending a message to the public—and certainly to Hawaii’s youth—that illegal possession of these controlled substances is significantly less egregious than crossing a white line while driving, using a turn signal for at least 100 feet before turning right or left, or practically any other traffic infraction in law.

In light of this, the Department strongly believes that decreasing the possession of less than one ounce of marijuana to a civil violation would not only fail to reflect the Legislature’s concern about illegal possession of marijuana, but would also—vastly—decrease the level of significance that the legislature, law enforcement, and ultimately the public, place on this Schedule I controlled substance.

Pursuant to both State and Federal schedules, possession of any amount of marijuana is strictly prohibited, except by qualifying patients registered to use medical marijuana (and their caregivers). Notably, the Federal schedule of controlled substances was updated very recently in February 2015, and continues to list marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance. Even in recent years, numerous and ongoing studies have shown that marijuana presents significant health concerns, particularly to youth, who will inevitably receive the message that marijuana is simply "not that bad" because "it's not even a crime." Businesses who currently allow smoke breaks for those who smoke cigarettes would potentially see a sharp increase in smoking marijuana on or off the job, because "it's not even a crime."

Given the strong potential for widespread abuse and negative effects on the community, the Department strongly maintains that the current classifications for illegal possession of marijuana and marijuana concentrates should continue at their current levels, for proper enforcement, treatment and oversight when needed. For this and all of the reasons stated above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly opposes S.B. 708. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

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email: info@pd-hawaii.com

tel: 808-542-9084

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

February 26, 2015 9:00 am, Room 016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 708, RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bart Dame and I am testifying on behalf of Progressive Democrats of Hawaii in support of SB 666, SB 708 and SB 879. While there are differences between these bills, as well as with SB 596, passed earlier by the Health Committee, we leave it to your wisdom to come up with the best bill.

In truth, PDH supports full legalization of recreational use of marijuana by consenting adults and believes the state has no legitimate right to threaten users with arrest, seize their property, impose legal costs upon them, coerce them to testify against their associates and to otherwise disrupt people's lives.

While decriminalization is still rooted in an unjustified assumption government has a right to prevent people from engaging in behavior which does no harm to others and is relatively harmless to themselves, we recognize this is halfway to a more sensible approach on marijuana use.

We are disappointed at the reluctance of the legislative leadership to allow debate on full legalization. We believe legalization is coming to Hawaii. Some legislators believe it is appropriate to allow other, more forward-thinking states, like Washington, Colorado and now Oregon and Alaska, to take the lead on a sensible drug policy. But the refusal to hold discussions this year will delay the ripening of understanding which would allow leaders and members of the public to relax their fears, to discard their prejudices. Were the topic not treated as tabu, we could start that discussion now, laying the groundwork for legalization to get serious consideration two years from now.

We are also disappointed some legislators appear to believe they are being sufficiently brave by supporting the establishment of dispensaries for medical marijuana. We disagree. We believe the dispensaries should have been established a dozen years ago. Frankly, that approach needlessly empowers HPD and groups like Drug Free Hawaii to retard meaningful progress towards a sensible drug policy, which should not be based upon the sort of blackmail and Reefer Madness fear-mongering which is their specialty, but upon a strategy of "Harm Reduction."

And, moving beyond Harm Reduction, we believe there is a lucrative niche market of tourists who would like to come to Hawaii and smoke Hawaii grown marijuana, which has an international reputation and would fetch high prices. There are a significant number of tourists who would love to be able to lounge around a pool, lay on the beach or watch the sunset, under the influence of marijuana. They can do that now, if they drink a Mai Tai or a beer, but not from a joint. This legal reality reflects the cultural prejudices of an alcohol-centric mindset and industry.

So please, yes, stop arresting people for getting high. Give them a ticket if you must impose unreasonable control over other people's lives. But it is much smarter to just legalize it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII
C/O 1658 LIHOLIHO ST #205
HONOLULU, HI 96822

TESTIMONY

February 23, 2014

RE: **SB 708** to be heard Thursday February 26, 2015 in Conference Room 016 at 9:00 AM

To the members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor

SUPPORT the intent

Do you feel that public opinion is irrelevant to legislative process? More people in Hawaii want full legalization than this half measure. Do you feel the state constitution guarantee of liberty is irrelevant? What legal grounds do you imagine you have to continue the existing laws governing marijuana growing and distribution? Even the federal government has backed off and will allow full legalization to any state that follows their guild lines. So why are we wasting time on this? Who is the constituency? Marijuana users want to be left alone. They don't want to pay fines. Agricultural interests need full legalization to develop a viable industry here that will add billions of dollars to the state's economy. No one really wants this small time approach.

We suggest the language in this bill be gutted and replaced with SB 383.

Tracy Ryan
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 4:47:33 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Ruggles	Alternative Pain Management Puuhonua LLC	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support SB 708.

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Testimony in Opposition to SB 708 – Relating to Marijuana

Hearing Scheduled

February 26, 2015, 9:00 am

Conference Room 016 of the State Capitol

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, 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 708– Relating to Marijuana*** that establishes a civil violation for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana and a civil fine of not more than \$100, among other provisions.

SB 708 like SB 666 and SB 879, is based on the false assumption that law enforcement is spending an inordinate amount of resources on small marijuana possession cases. Currently, no one goes to jail solely for possession of small amounts of marijuana. HPD reported that in 2012, 7 people were incarcerated for marijuana possession and most served less than 10 days. Obviously, law enforcement is not spending huge amounts of time or resources on this issue. Decriminalization of marijuana in Hawaii may not be necessary.

RE:Civil violations protocols, Hawaii already has the Hope Court, a highly successful, nationally recognized drug court program. It incorporates treatment alternatives to incarceration for first time drug offenders. It works because it is coerced treatment with immediate sanctions of jail time for lack of follow through by the individual.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 708.



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

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

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

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2015, ROOM 016

RE: S.B. 708 RELATING TO MARIJUANA – **IN SUPPORT OF INTENT**

Good afternoon, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee. 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.

We strongly support the intent of S.B. 708 which would move the possession of an ounce or less of marijuana from a petty misdemeanor to a civil infraction, but we believe this measure is inadequate in comparison with S.B. 666 which is far more comprehensive.

S.B. 708 lacks a findings section which lays out the rationale for changing simple possession of marijuana from a criminal to a civil matter.

But more importantly S.B. 666 specifies the civil violations that possession of an ounce or less would incur, and details the procedures for ticketing offenders, how to collect fines, the appeal process, and more.

In sum S.B. 708, while a strong statement of the legislature's intent, is lacking the details that would help effectuate this relatively complex change to Hawaii's laws. We ask the Committee to defer action on this measure in favor of passing out S.B. 666.

Mahalo for scheduling these important measures on decriminalization today and for affording us the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii's voice for sensible, compassionate, and just drug policy

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015
9:00 AM

Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Executive Director Rafael Kennedy in Support – SB708 – Relating to Marijuana

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the committee,

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii strongly supports SB666 as the best vessel for decriminalization in the state of Hawaii. We support the intent of this bill, but it contains some oversights. The biggest, and most important is that this bill does not grant any protections for the possession of paraphernalia, which in some jurisdictions has limited the effectiveness of decriminalization efforts.

This bill also does not fully address the issue of children. We have proposed, in our testimony on SB666, statutory language that could be included to require minors to attend a voluntary educational program and perform community service. This may help assuage some concerns about the “message” that decriminalization sends to youth without subjecting them to the criminal penalties that can be so damaging for their futures.

Mahalo for your consideration on this important matter, and for the opportunity to testify.

Rafael Kennedy
Executive Director,

Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii works to educate policymakers and the public about effective ways of addressing drug issues in Hawai'i with sensible and humane policies that reduce harm, expand treatment options, and adopt evidence-based practices while optimizing the use of scarce resources.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 4:10:52 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

A 501(C) (4) organization associated with Hawaii Family Forum

ONLINE TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing on February 26, 2015 @ 9:00
Conference Room #016

DATE: February 24, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator, Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator, Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. Interim President & CEO

RE: Opposition to SB 666, SB 708, and SB 879 Relating to Marijuana

My name is James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr., and I have been an attorney in Honolulu since 1981. I have also served the people of Hawaii as a Family and Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (1990 to 1998), and I also served as the first Administrative Judge of the Hawaii Drug Court Program (1994-1997). Currently I am the interim president of Hawaii Family Advocates, a 501(c)(4) independent expenditure, non-candidate organization. I strongly oppose this bill.

Decriminalization and legalization of marijuana is the wrong social policy for the people of Hawaii. It's social implications in regards to the structure and function of the family unit, business environment, juvenile delinquency, brain development and other health related consequences outweigh any benefits to its decriminalization or legalization.

The policy supporting this bill is based upon the waste of time and money in enforcing marijuana possession statutes and its ineffective deterrence to marijuana users. There is no policy statement in regards to the social and health effects mentioned in the preceding paragraph, despite the fact that this bill would amend the Department of Education's Chapter 91 rules relating to the reporting of marijuana possession by students to the appropriate authorities.

As proposed in this bill teachers, school officials, or employees of the department of education would not be required to report that a student, whom they know or has reason to believe, is in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana to the police, parents, or other appropriate authorities. In short, this proposed bill would establish a policy that it is ok for our children to possess up to fifty marijuana joints!

There are numerous medical studies and reports relating to the effect that marijuana use has on our children. I do not know of one medical report or pediatrician, which would state that marijuana use by our children is not detrimental to their health and development, and therefore, should be condoned and approved in **any** fashion.

P.O. Box 2757 • Honolulu, HI 96803 • Phone: 808-429-4872

E-mail: info@hffaction.org | Website: www.hffaction.org

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

A 501(C) (4) organization associated with Hawaii Family Forum

We know for a fact that here in Hawaii marijuana is one of the top two drugs of choice by our children. We also know that use of marijuana has a profound effect on the development of our children's brain. Marijuana use has been associated with verbal learning disadvantages, attention problems, short-term memory loss, difficulty with problem-solving and trouble exercising inhibition. In addition, research has established that children who start using marijuana before the age of 18 experience a significant drop in their IQ score that persisted decades later.

With all of this undisputed research and information why would the people of Hawaii be in favor of a bill that does not require school personnel to report any possession of marijuana to the their parents and appropriate authorities, unless the proponents of this bill want to establish a policy and law which states that possessing and using marijuana is alright and legal.

Although this bill also notes that the legislature does not intend to imply that such possession is acceptable, based on the absence of any discussion relating to the social and health implications of marijuana, there is no question that the ultimate objective of this bill is to legalize the use of marijuana. In short, this bill is the slippery slope that must be avoided.

This bill's policy statement relating to the cost and ineffectiveness of marijuana possession laws amounts to a straw argument. Following this logic the same could be said about many other criminal laws. What is the deterrent effect of our property laws, our drinking and driving laws, our theft laws, and to a certain extent our murder laws?

It appears that the supporters of this bill are indirectly stating that the illegality of marijuana, like the prohibition of alcohol, needs to follow the same path. If that occurs, than we already know what the social, health, and economic costs of the legalization of marijuana would be because history would be repeating itself. However, the biggest cost to the people of Hawaii would be that we failed to learn the lessons of this history.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 10:51:12 AM
Attachments: [SB708 Marijuana Decriminalization.docx](#)

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Johnson	Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:11:49 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Breene	Waihuena Farm	Support	No

Comments: While I support this Decriminalization Bill, SB666 is a better version. SB708 does not include protections for paraphernalia, which limits the effectiveness of decriminalization. Mahalo

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Feb 26, 2015 9:00a

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB708

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of only civil penalties for the possession of Marijuana under 1oz.

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Civil penalties for possession of Marijuana under 1 oz. Although I support the use of medical marijuana (taken orally instead of smoked) I am firmly against recreational marijuana. I believe that any lessening of the penalties against recreational marijuana use will only promote recreational use.

The physical consequences of marijuana use, especially for children teens and adults under the age of 21 should in itself be reason enough to make harsher consequences. As we all know that marijuana use can prohibit brain development in children, teens, and adults under 21.

I also believe that it is ridiculous to lessen penalties for the selling of marijuana just because they are caught selling less than 1 oz. Basically you are telling people that it is okay to sell recreational marijuana as long as you only carry less than 1oz with you at a time.

It is also alarming to see that it is being suggested that when Teenagers are caught with less than 1 oz at school it no longer needs to be reported. It is a medical fact that marijuana use before the brain is fully developed (typically age 21) will prohibit the brain from developing fully. How could you just turn your head the other way on this???

I know of people whose use of marijuana has dulled their critical thinking skills and lessened their sense of ambitiousness and responsibility. I believe that marijuana does have some medical purposes but as with all medical drugs, it also has side effects that are not worth the trade just for recreational use. Again, I feel that lessening the consequences will only promote its use and am strongly opposed to civil penalties for Marijuana possession under 1 oz.

Sincerely,
Angela Woods
Pahoa, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 4:51:44 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brent Neal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support SB 708.

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Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 4:55:33 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Neal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support SB 708.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 5:40:37 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
c. masaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I dont think this war on Marijuana has done anything to stop the use. In fact 70% of people in Hawaii dont think its right to jail someone for Marijuana use, which is a fact safer then alcohol. Why put people in jail because of a FLAWED LAW? Making this a Civil infraction will save the State time & money! Arrests, processing, housing(jail), feeding, clothing, court cost ALL would be Money Saved. Having a record for Marijuana will put this person "in the system". Having a record will help him not get a job, collect welfare OR turn to crime to support themselves. This "burden" will now be put on the State. One way or another, Welfare or Prison. Please STOP this madness as it does no good for the State.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:42:37 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Susott, MD, MPH	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: SB708 support from Daniel Campbell Susott, MD, MPH., not as good as SB666 with the unfortunate number, but better than nothing. President Jimmy Carter said very clearly that when the punishment is worse than the crime, as in the Drug War, something is woefully wrong. Cannabis hemp is one of the oldest and most important plants ever, with humans since the dawn of agriculture, 10,000 years. It has never killed anyone. It is safer than aspirin. We in Hawai'i Nei struggle under more layers of "organized crime" than many places, between the DEA, the NED, police, unions, and the criminal elements in society who thrive under current Drug War policies. End the insanity. Legalize it. I am a medical doctor trained in Hawaii with a masters in public health, a specialist in preventive medicine and global health. The Drug War, especially the prohibition of cannabis, has been a colossal failure, making the whole world more dangerous. Hawaii can again lead the world by decriminalizing and then legalizing cannabis, so we can begin to heal the wounds of the Drug War which has impacted Hawaii worse than any of the other 50 states. No more victims! For our grandchildren's grandchildren, amen.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:29:21 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Bateman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chair Keith-Agaran and Members: I STONGLY OPPOSE SB 708. SB 708 would decriminalize possession of less than 1 oz of marijuana to a civil offense. While on the face of the proposed bill it would seem intuitive to decriminalize possession of a small amount of this drug to save law enforcement dollars and to increase tax revenues to the state, this bill should not be about dollars. Rather it should be about lives, careers and most importantly, our keiki. It is established in many scientific and medical journal articles that regular use of marijuana does lead in many cases to use of other drugs and many social issues. It is proven that marijuana is a gateway drug to other debilitating drugs. Employment can be jeopardized if a user shows up to work stoned. Jobs and careers can be ruined. Driving under the influence of marijuana will lead to more auto accidents, injuries and deaths. But, most importantly, unsupervised adult use can result in intended or unintended access to our keiki. It is established that use by minors can affect brain growth, cognitive abilities and create learning problems. It has been noted that in states that have legalized marijuana, there is a much higher incident of MVA's with youth. Bottom line, this bill is bad legislation that appears to be based on fiscal/financial results with little concern about the social consequences. Again, I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 708 and ask that it be tabled in committee. Thank you for considering my remarks Dave Bateman

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 2:59:26 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Kaanapu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Not to mention, to have users driving incoherently affecting others on the roadways and how offensively will change our driver licensing laws. I can't imagine for commercial truck drivers and the like could get by with this when the law already states is illegal. Need we say more? Sincerely, Elaine Kaanapu Hilo, HI 96720

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 6:06:07 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Monday, February 23, 2015 5:12:01 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:24:38 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 7:48:06 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph A. Bobich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Feb 26, 2015

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB666, 708, 879

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Only Civil Penalties for the Possession of Marijuana Under 1 Ounce

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed civil penalties for possession of Marijuana under 1 ounce. I support the use of medical marijuana taken orally instead of smoked, I am firmly against recreational marijuana. I believe that any lessening of the penalties against recreational marijuana use will promote recreational use to the detriment of good order in our communities.

The physical consequences of marijuana use, especially for children, teens and adults under the age of 21 is in itself be reason enough to make harsher consequences. We know that marijuana use can prohibit brain development in children, teens, and adults under 21.

It is ridiculous to lessen penalties for the selling of marijuana when one is caught selling less than 1 ounce. This is telling people that it is okay to sell recreational marijuana as long as you carry less than 1 ounce with them at a time.

I beseech you to not change the law so teenagers caught with less than 1 ounce at school will not have their crime reported. Marijuana use before the brain is fully developed, typically age 21, will prohibit the brain from developing fully. We should not turn our heads to the consequences for these individuals.

I know people whose use of marijuana has dulled their critical thinking skills and lessened their sense of ambition and responsibility. Marijuana does have some medicinal purposes, but as with all drugs, it also has side effects that make it unwise to allow it freely for recreational use. Again, I feel that lessening the consequences will only promote marijuana use and am strongly opposed to civil penalties for marijuana possession under 1 ounce.

Sincerely,

Judi Mellon

Hilo, HI 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:21:25 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 12:56:13 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This a common-sense proposal.

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I am writing in support of SB708 which replaces the criminal penalty for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a civil citation of \$100. I think it is utterly ridiculous at this point in time to make people criminals for doing something less harmful than having a case of beer or a fifth of vodka in their possession. It is no longer even a question of the harmlessness of marijuana. The facts are finally being examined and the truth of the matter is: marijuana is not harmful or addictive - unlike alcohol or cigarettes - which the government condones wholeheartedly. And, unlike alcohol and cigarettes, marijuana has many beneficial aspects.

So, I ask our elected representatives to make it a matter of law. If you don't have the power to legalize marijuana right now, at least pass SB708 so we can stop creating more criminals. No one who just uses marijuana should be a criminal. Go after crystal meth, heroin, cocaine - things that actually harm people and take lives. Marijuana does NOT harm anyone.

Personally, I think it needs to become legal and hope it is only a matter of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Matsumoto

Captain Cook, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 2:46:04 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Caldwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:15:19 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martina Kapololu	non-profit	Oppose	No

Comments: Committee on Judiciary and Labor Re: Bill #SB666, 708, 879 Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Subject: Testimony in Opposition of only civil penalties for the possession of Marijuana under 1oz. To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am opposed to the proposed Bills listed above. Use of Marijuana for medical purposes may have some benefit, but should be administered by licensed medical doctors and pharmacist as other prescribed drugs. Research on recreational Marijuana is clear on the impact that this drug has on the body. Here is a refresher: 1. THC, the active ingredient that produces that feeling of being high, affects almost every organ in your body, nervous system and immune system. 2. Smoking it can increase double your heart rate for up to three hours. Each person responds differently. 3. It can increase bleeding, lower blood pressure and lower blood sugar, which increases appetite. You may think this is good, but it has never lead to healthier lifestyles or increased fitness to the point of being healthy. 4. It also can cause dizziness, shallow breathing, red eyes, dilated pupils, dry mouth, slower reaction time, dull senses, and sleepiness. 5. Recreational use often leads to life-time users which can result in physical withdrawal from social settings, irritability, and less appetite. Decreasing the criminal status of this drug because quantities will be limited to 1 oz. will only make this more attractive to children, teens and youth. As a retired school administrator, I can predict a reduction in the criminal offense will impact school campuses with an increase in student use of this drug and decrease in student achievement. Schools will be spending more time "policing" and disciplining student populations because the law has made it legal. Let us learn from other states that have legalized Marijuana. Look at their issues, particularly how impacts teens and youth. We should be courageous and bold and take a stand against this proposal because it is right and not be impacted by popularity. It seems that our Constitution was written to protect the rights of the innocent, too. Our children, teens and young adults need an advocate to protect their rights as guaranteed by this, Our Constitution of the United States.

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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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 3:40:52 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Rubin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill

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SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Dodge ND	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Naturopathic Physician licensed in the state of Hawaii, I support all efforts to decriminalize marijuana, and therefore support this bill, though ultimately, flawed. Peter Dodge, N.D.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:38:33 AM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley koga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Good day, I am writing you in support of SB708. It is long past time that we take these types of measures and more to remove the negative and socially scarring stigma from personal marijuana possession. This plant is far less harmful than alcohol o tobacco and this is an important step in reversing a decades old, non-science based attitude that this country unfortunately let itself be fooled into. In addition, please consider including provisions for paraphernalia. Dear legislators-- the tide is turning regarding marijuana use over-all. Get with the times and be remembered for your bravery and common sense. Mahalo, Stan Koga

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB708 on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 2:10:33 PM

SB708

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Marijuana doesn't kill people or make them so stupid things that kill people like tobacco and liquor. It also doesn't lead to harder drugs such as our pharmaceutical drugs (many are made from opium derivatives). People have driven, killed and raped others under the influence of sleep medications. With marijuana, there isn't any criminal activity.

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