

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 786 SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: March 29, 2017

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Substantial staff time required

2 **Department Testimony:**

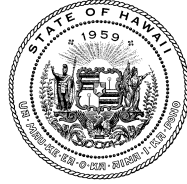
3 The Department supports SB786 SD1, HD1. The Department recognizes that the term medical  
4 cannabis is scientifically more correct than the term medical marijuana. HD1 of the bill clarifies  
5 that changes in terminology to medical cannabis in the Hawaii Administrative Rules will be  
6 accomplished by operation of law through this statute. The bill also allows the Department to  
7 complete conforming revisions by December 31, 2019.

8 The change in terminology will require changes in the medical marijuana online patient and  
9 caregiver registration documents as well as the medical marijuana dispensary licensing  
10 documents. Documents include application forms, addresses and address forms, PDF  
11 attachments, registry website name and content, the program's email address and mailing  
12 address, registration cards, stationary, business cards, as well as contracts and similar items.  
13 Similarly, for medical marijuana dispensary licensing, documents include dispensary licenses,  
14 addresses, licensing website name and content, program e-mail and mailing address, business  
15 cards, contracts and other items. This all would need to be done consistently, and with adequate  
16 warning and education for the public, physicians and patients. These changes will impact the  
17 administration of both the registry and dispensary services if the timeline is too short. The  
18 Department strongly recommends the timeline of December 31, 2019 as established in SD1.  
19 This timeline is realistic and will not negatively impact patient services.

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

MARIA E. ZIELINSKI  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 786, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Marijuana

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 786, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and provides the following comments for your consideration.

S.B. 786, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, directs that all references to medical marijuana, medical use of marijuana, and manufactured marijuana product be amended to refer to medical cannabis. The measure lists the provisions that contain references to medical marijuana and directs that all references in these provisions be amended. H.D. 1 has a defective effective date of July 1, 2070.

The Department notes that the bill includes all references to medical marijuana currently in Title 14 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). However, the Department notes that H.B. 263, H.D. 2, proposes, among other things, to add the term "medical marijuana" to chapter 237.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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

TO: House Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director  
HEARING DATE: 29 March 2017, 2PM  
RE: SB786 SD1 HD1, Relating to Medical Marijuana, **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i is the founder, along with the ACLU of Hawai'i, of the Medical Cannabis Coalition of Hawai'i. We chose to use the word "cannabis" in the coalition's name for exactly the reasons outlined in Section 1. The first head of what was to become the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) was a man named Harry Anslinger. He began the federal campaign against the then legal cannabis, purposely using the word "marijuana" to make it seem foreign. Among Anslinger's many quotes that were removed from reality and rooted in prejudice:

*"Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind... Most marijuana smokers are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage."*

We appreciate this bill's goal to change this term once and for all in the realm of medical cannabis, and we thank the Chair for introducing the House Companion bill, HB37. The next step is to do the same for all cannabis. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



PO Box 83, Honolulu, HI 96810 ~ (808) 853-3231

*Hawaii's Voice for Sensible, Compassionate, and Just Drug Policy*

**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

**DATE:** March 29, 2 p.m., Room 329

**RE:** S.B. 786, S.D.1, H.D.1 RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA – **IN SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, 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 Hawai'i.

We strongly support this measure and are pleased to see that the issue of calling medical Cannabis by its proper, scientific name has finally come before this body. With all the changes happening around the world and throughout this country, to both the legal status and the perceptions about cannabis, it's long past time that we leave behind the racistly-derived term that stems from the Yellow Journalism of the early 20th century.

We think the term should be retrofitted in all of our statutes as soon as feasible, but realize that is a goal for the future.

Thank you for hearing this measure today. We urge you to pass it on to the full House for action. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

2:00 pm

Room 325

### STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 786 SD1, HD1 - MEDICAL CANNABIS

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the approximately 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 786 SD1, HD1 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes and Hawaii Administrative Rules to substitute references to "medical marijuana" and like terms with "medical cannabis" and like terms and requires the Department of Health to make all conforming revisions to Administrative Rules upon their next amendment and to other documents and items by December 31, 2019.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges this committee to pass this legislation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** marilynmick@pobox.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB786 on Mar 29, 2017 14:00PM

**SB786**

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 29, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill would once and for all change the term used from "medical marijuana" to "medical cannabis". This is not only scientifically accurate, but it is devoid of the racist legacy with which "marijuana" is associated.

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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** wendygibson9@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB786 on Mar 29, 2017 14:00PM

**SB786**

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 29, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Marijuana (Marihuana) is a racially charged slang term, a term used to confuse the public who knew cannabis as a medicine (between 1850 and 1937). It is fitting to replace the term "medical marijuana" with "medical cannabis". The botanical and scientific name for the medicine is cannabis. As a cannabis nurse with many years of experience in pharmacy work, I feel strongly that we need to use correct terminology when we speak about a medicine. That is why I am in strong support of SB786. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

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