

SB786

Measure Title: RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.
Report Title: Medical Marijuana; Medical Cannabis; Change of Terminology
Description: Amends Hawaii Revised Statutes and Hawaii Administrative Rules to substitute references to "medical marijuana" and like terms with "medical cannabis" and like terms.
Companion: [HB37](#)
Package: None
Current Referral: CPH
Introducer(s): GABBARD, KIDANI, K. RHOADS, RUDERMAN, Baker, S. Chang, Ihara, Kim, Nishihara, Riviere

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

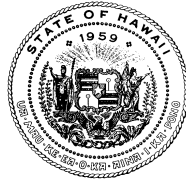
Re: S.B. 786, Relating to Medical Marijuana

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

S.B. 786 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. The bill is effective upon approval.

The Department notes that the bill omits a reference to section 237-24.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which contains a reference to medical marijuana. In order to correct this omission, the Department recommends the bill be amended to include chapter 237 or section 237-24.3, HRS, in the list of provisions to be amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 0786
RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 22, 2017 Room Number: 229

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

2 **Department Testimony:**

3 The Department recognizes that the term medical cannabis is scientifically more correct than the
4 term medical marijuana. The department, however, generally opposes the passage of new laws
5 related to marijuana until the medical marijuana dispensaries open and the department has the
6 chance to gauge the impact upon the State. The change in terminology would require changes in
7 medical marijuana statutes and administrative rules, the online registration address and forms,
8 PDF attachments, website name and content, the program's email address and mailing address,
9 registration cards, stationary, business cards, as well as contracts and similar items. This all
10 would need to be done simultaneously, consistently, and with adequate warning and education
11 for the public, physicians and patients. This will require resources and, significantly, require
12 time from limited staff whose priority is registering patients and managing the opening of
13 dispensaries and laboratories. Additional tasks required by the name change will distract from
14 priority tasks and likely slow progress.

15 The Department seeks clarification on the intent of this bill. As written, it appears that
16 SECTION 3 mandates the Department to amend its administrative rules, while SECTION 4
17 indicates that the change will happen by operation of law.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 9:31 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: carl@dpfhi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB786 on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM

SB786

Submitted on: 2/20/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Bergquist	Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments: 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 his 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 the legislature's move to change this term once and for all in the realm of medical cannabis. The next step is to do the same for all cannabis. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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: Monday, February 20, 2017 11:24 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: wendygibson9@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB786 on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM

SB786

Submitted on: 2/20/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The botanical name of this plant is Cannabis. There is no plant named marijuana. Marijuana is a racially-charged, slang term from the 1930's depression era--targeting Mexican immigrant workers. It was used by a Reefer-Madness media campaign to create a culture of fear that led to the destruction of the hemp industry as well as the medical industry. As a healthcare professional, I feel it is important to use the proper name of medicines. It would be best to call this medicine by the proper name which is "Cannabis". Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2017 1:41 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: georgina808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB786 on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM*

SB786

Submitted on: 2/18/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2017 11:50 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: j.bobich@tcu.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB786 on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM

SB786

Submitted on: 2/18/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 22, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I strongly support this bill. Joseph A. Bobich, Ph. D. Professor of Biochemistry, Emeritus

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