

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Director

Shawn K. Nakama
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

SCR147

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IF THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA FOR PERSONAL USE IS DECRIMINALIZED IN HAWAII

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee. My name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.C.R. No. 147, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Study on the Potential Impact on the Administrative and Judicial Systems of State Government and on Local Law Enforcement if the Illegal Possession of Marijuana for Personal Use is Decriminalized in Hawaii.

The measure requests the Bureau to conduct a study that includes the following specific aspects:

- (1) The potential impact on the administrative and judicial systems of state government and on local law enforcement if committing a marijuana possession offense is an administrative or civil violation rather than a crime;

- (2) An overview of the strengths and weaknesses of creating a new administrative process to adjudicate decriminalized marijuana possession cases as well as retaining the adjudication process for these cases within the judicial system;
- (3) The feasibility of eliminating the arrest and detention of individuals who are suspected of marijuana possession;
- (4) An assessment of the impact of decriminalizing the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana and the separate impact of decriminalizing possession of more than one ounce of marijuana;
- (5) An analysis determining the impact of existing marijuana possession criminal laws on Hawaii's population, specifically on the youth, disparate arrest rates among racial and ethnic groups, and counties, and the types of consequences, also known as collateral sanctions, a criminal conviction for marijuana can have on individuals; and
- (6) Findings that are based on the assumption that the penalty imposed for a violation would be \$100 for the first offense and \$200 for each subsequent offense, if marijuana possession for personal use was decriminalized.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of this measure, but submits the following comments for your consideration.

As noted on page 3, line 39 to page 4, line 4 of this measure, the Bureau, at the Legislature's request, completed *less than two months ago* a study entitled "Panacea or Pipe Dream: Does Portugal's Drug Decriminalization Policy Translate for Hawaii?", which examined "the potential impact on administrative and judicial systems of state government of decriminalizing the illegal possession of" various drugs for personal use in Hawaii, *specifically including marijuana*, just as this measure would require.

The Bureau's study noted that available data pertaining to drug possession arrests, prosecutions, and sentences are not always consistent or compiled in ways that separate statistics pertaining to marijuana offenses from data that include other offenses.

This measure seeks to determine the impact that one particular drug, marijuana, has on administrative and judicial systems in the State, as stated in paragraph (1) on page 4, lines 32-36. As the Bureau learned while conducting our previous study, informational systems within state and county agencies are not necessarily designed to readily provide the specific relevant data that are necessary to make a meaningful determination of that impact. As we noted on page xvii of the Executive Summary of our report:

Police departments and the Judiciary could not isolate expenditures related to drug offenses from expenditures related to other offenses. We also received no statistical information from county prosecutors about their enforcement efforts. One

county prosecutor's office did not respond at all to our requests for information. Another prosecutor's office responded that it did not have the resources to provide information, given the limitations of its case management system. The Office of the Public Defender, which defends most accused indigent criminal offenders, provided a similar response to our request for information about its defense efforts in drug possession cases.

The current measure attempts to address the foregoing problem by specifically requesting the Judiciary, the Department of Public Safety, each county police department, each county prosecutor, and the Office of the Public Defender to provide statistics and other pertinent data to the Bureau. However, the Legislature's request for information to non-legislative agencies cannot result in the provision of relevant information when that information is *simply not available*, even when those agencies may be willing to provide information when possible.

We note that although the Judiciary, the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, the police departments, the Office of the Public Defender, and other agencies were willing to correspond with the Bureau regarding our previous study, those agencies could not provide all the information requested. This is why the Bureau's report specifically noted, in our recommendation on pages 111-112, that legislation and funding may be necessary to accomplish structural improvements in the information systems of the Judiciary, the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, the police departments, and other agencies, in order to obtain such data. Even then, it would likely take several years to compile and segregate data that could be compared year by year to provide meaningful insight regarding constants, variables, and trends in statistics pertaining to marijuana possession offenses.

However, the Bureau's study also noted that it does not appear that large numbers of people are routinely incarcerated in Hawaii *solely* for illegal marijuana possession.

And similar to the requirement in paragraph (2) on page 4, lines 38 to 42 of this measure, the Bureau's study also examined issues related to establishing a new administrative process to adjudicate decriminalized drug possession offenses, including marijuana possession, in the context of potentially emulating administrative processes that have been established in Portugal, as was requested by the Legislature.

For example, the study noted, on page 71, that:

[Establishing administrative tribunals similar to those in Portugal] could require considerable funding, resources, and time to implement, including that needed to locate and employ qualified staff. Further, enforcement and oversight would require the creation of appropriate structures to track offenses and compliance with penalties, and to assign and monitor any additional sanctions imposed for noncompliance. In contrast, criminal courts are already established in Hawaii and include programs aimed at reducing drug use and recidivism (e.g. drug courts and HOPE probation). However, since judges are generally not health or social service experts, utilizing health professionals to help address the needs of drug users under a decriminalization scheme could require additional financial resources.

Furthermore, with respect to paragraph (3) of the measure, at page 5, lines 2-4, regarding the feasibility of eliminating the arrest and detention of individuals who are suspected of marijuana possession, the Bureau's recent study noted, on page 72, that:

In theory, eliminating arrests could remove a source of stigma that may deter [drug] users from seeking treatment and may affect employment and other opportunities. Since county police departments currently conduct most enforcement actions in Hawaii with regard to drug possession offenses, they might reasonably be expected to perform similar duties with regard to drugs that are decriminalized but not legalized, issuing administrative citations rather than making arrests. However, it may be argued that arrests may help ensure that users appear before the appropriate presiding authority, which may ultimately have a more positive impact on a user than the mere payment of a fine without any appearance.

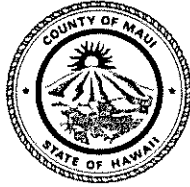
With respect to paragraph (4) of the measure, at page 5, lines 6-9, regarding the potential impacts of decriminalizing certain marijuana quantities, as we found from our previous study, statistics pertaining to arrests, prosecutions, and sentences in Hawaii for offenses involving harmful or detrimental drugs do not routinely segregate marijuana-related offenses from offenses related to other drugs. Thus it is not currently possible to accurately assess the potential impact of marijuana decriminalization absent additional data collection by law enforcement agencies. Also, as described on page 64 of the Bureau's study, it is not possible, using currently available data, to determine whether a person arrested for an applicable drug offense was arrested for *possession*, *distributing*, or *selling* an illicit drug, nor is it always possible to discern whether a drug offense was the sole offense for which a suspect was arrested, or how much money a law enforcement agency expends to enforce laws pertaining to specific drugs, such as marijuana.

Thus, it appears that many of the areas of study contemplated by this measure would be duplicative of material covered in the aforementioned report so recently completed by the Bureau, and that it is not currently possible to provide additional information contemplated by this measure.

Also, the analysis required by paragraph (5) on page 5, lines 11 to 17, of this measure regarding the impact of existing marijuana possession criminal laws on various segments of Hawaii's population would appear to be duplicative in at least some respects with other existing reports that are also cited in this measure. For example, this measure notes on page 2, lines 1 to 5, that the Department of the Attorney General's report "Crime in Hawaii 2014" found that seven hundred ninety-two adults and four hundred five juveniles were arrested for the possession of marijuana that year. This measure also notes, on page 2, lines 7 to 12, that a report completed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, entitled "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System" found that Native Hawaiians are disproportionately arrested for offenses such as possession of marijuana.

In summary, it does not appear that requiring the Bureau to complete yet another study regarding the potential decriminalization of marijuana would produce much new or useful data or analysis for the Legislature to consider. The limitations of data currently collected simply make it impossible to distinguish many marijuana-related statistics from data involving other illicit substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
150 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

CONTACT: RICHARD K. MINATOYA
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Supervisor - Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Administrative Services Division

TESTIMONY
ON

SCR 147 - REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT
A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND
JUDICIAL SYSTEMS OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ON LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT IF THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA FOR
PERSONAL USE IS DECRIMINALIZED IN HAWAII

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai
Vice Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui strongly opposes SCR 147. This measure requests, among other things, that the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study regarding decriminalization of marijuana, including receiving statistical data from the prosecutor of each county.

Our office has a limited number of deputy prosecutors and support staff. They are busy processing, screening, and prosecuting criminal cases. We are unable to collect and process the requested information without adversely impacting the services we clearly have to provide to the residents and visitors of Maui County. We would, however, be able to collect and provide such information is adequate funding is provided to us.

Accordingly, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, requests that this measure be HELD.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



CHRISTOPHER D.W. YOUNG
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai'i

March 28, 2017

RE: S.C.R. 147; REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IF THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA FOR PERSONAL USE IS DECRIMINALIZED IN HAWAII..

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in opposition to S.C.R. 147.

The purpose of S.C.R. 147 is to require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study regarding the "decriminalization" of marijuana in Hawaii, based on information provided by various agencies, including each county prosecutor.

Because our Department runs on a very tight budget, the compilation of this information would detract time and resources away from our primary function of processing, screening and prosecuting criminal cases, or other essential functions of the Department. We would further note that our case tracking system does not specifically identify marijuana-related offenses, among the various drug offenses that we prosecute, and thus the requested information would likely require a case-by-case review and hand-count. If additional funding is provided for adequate staffing to carry out this measure, we would be able to comply.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes the passage of S.C.R. 147. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

1:20 pm

Room 229

SUPPORT - SCR 147 - LRB STUDY ON DECRIMINALIZING CANNABIS

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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 almost 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,700 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.

SCR 147 requests the legislative reference bureau to conduct a study on the potential impact on the administrative and judicial systems of state government and on local law enforcement if the illegal possession of marijuana for personal use is decriminalized in Hawai'i.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this study. *Twenty-one states and Washington, D.C. have enacted laws to stop jailing their residents for possession of modest amounts of marijuana. In eight of those states, marijuana is legal for adults 21 and older, while 13 have "decriminalized" simple possession of marijuana. Many of the decriminalization states impose a civil fine, which avoids the life-altering collateral consequences a criminal record carries. Decriminalization laws avoid imposing harsh punishments for possessing a substance that is safer than alcohol, while freeing up law enforcement to focus on serious crimes. Many of these laws were first enacted in the 1970s, and they have proven so non-controversial that several have been expanded.*¹

¹ Marijuana Policy Project. <https://www.mpp.org/issues/decriminalization/>

A report issued jointly by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)² called on federal and state authorities to decriminalize personal use and possession of drugs due to the documented failures of the War on Drugs. The two organizations recommended a shift from harsh enforcement to policies of prevention and harm reduction.

“Criminalizing drug use simply has not worked as a matter of practice,” stated the HRW-ACLU report. “Criminalizing drug possession has caused dramatic and unnecessary harms...both for individuals and for communities.”

A White House commission that studied marijuana in the early 1970s recommended decriminalization. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have decriminalized possession of small amounts of marijuana according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The 196-page report, “Every 25 Seconds: The Human Toll of Criminalizing Drug Use in the United States,” finds that enforcement of drug possession laws causes extensive and unjustifiable harm to individuals and communities across the country. The long-term consequences can separate families; exclude people from job opportunities, welfare assistance, public housing, and voting; and expose them to discrimination and stigma for a lifetime. While more people are arrested for simple drug possession in the US than for any other crime, mainstream discussions of criminal justice reform rarely question whether drug use should be criminalized at all.³

“Every 25 seconds someone is funneled into the criminal justice system, accused of nothing more than possessing drugs for personal use,” said Tess Borden, Aryeh Neier Fellow at Human Rights Watch and the ACLU and the report’s author. “These wide-scale arrests have destroyed countless lives while doing nothing to help people who struggle with dependence.”³

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to pass this resolution.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

² Every 25 Seconds, The Human Toll of Criminalizing Drug Use in the United States. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/10/12/every-25-seconds/human-toll-criminalizing-drug-use-united-states>

³ US: Disastrous Toll of Criminalizing Drug Use, Enforcement Destroys Families, Undermines Health, October 12, 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/10/12/us-disastrous-toll-criminalizing-drug-use>



A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i

PO Box 83, Honolulu, HI 96810 ~ (808) 518-3213

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

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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

DATE: March 28, 2017, 1:30 p.m., Room 229

RE: SCR 147: REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS OF STATE GOVERNMENT & ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IF THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA FOR PERSONAL USE IS DECRIMINALIZED IN HAWAII – **IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Good morning, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 the Committee considering its adoption. This resolution is a follow up to a study done during the last Interim by the LRB looking at the effects of decriminalizing many drugs.

In their report the LRB asked for additional guidance in performing additional research. This resolution provides that guidance and moreover gives specific directions to them as to what material should be reviewed and taken into account in their analysis.

We hope that very soon Hawaii will be poised to decriminalize cannabis as more than 23 other states have done since the 1970s (This included the eight states where adult use of cannabis is legal.)

In summary, we are pleased to see this reso on the agenda today. Thank you for hearing this measure and mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



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

TO: Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director
HEARING DATE: 28 March 2017, 1:20PM
RE: SCR147, Decriminalization of Marijuana/Legislative Reference Bureau Study, **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) **strongly supports** this resolution that asks the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to conduct a study on the potential impact on Hawaii's administrative and judicial systems as well as local law enforcement of the decriminalization of marijuana (cannabis) possession for personal use. Well over half of US states have legalized medical cannabis and 22 states plus the District of Columbia have either legalized or decriminalized adult recreational cannabis. Hawai'i was among the first to legalize medical cannabis yet we continue to criminalize recreational cannabis without sound reasons and to the great detriment of those arrested and/or convicted as well as the society around them.

The proposed LRB study would look at how the individuals saddled with convictions (800 adults/year & 400 juveniles/year) are impacted in terms of decreased access to jobs, school, housing and more. Further, it would assess the savings that the state and counties could incur if they no longer arrested, prosecuted and detained (even if only pre-trial) people for the sole charge of cannabis possession. As countless studies have shown, this quintessential War on Drugs law was originally aimed at, and is currently enforced upon, disadvantaged communities of color. As FBI data demonstrates, Hawai'i is no outlier.

Moreover, this study would be conducted in response to the [LRB's own requests in a study](#) published earlier this year. In "Panacea or Pipedream: Does Portugal's Decriminalization Policy Translate for Hawaii?", the LRB described "uncertainty regarding the Legislature's preferred decriminalization scheme" as well as "a lack of baseline information". The resolution attempts to address some of the shortcomings by providing guidance that is more explicit.

Finally, we believe that the resolution would be improved by the amendments proposed by Dr. Clifton Otto in his testimony as well as the following amendment. Please insert where appropriate:

“WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawai’i, 2nd District) on 2/27/2017 was one of two original co-sponsors of the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017 (H.R. 1227) citing the “devastating ripple effects on individuals and communities” that criminalization is having;”

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 147, REQUESTING THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS OF
STATE GOVERNMENT AND ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IF THE ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA FOR PERSONAL USE IS DECRIMINALIZED IN
HAWAII**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 1:20 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Nishihara and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of SCR 147, requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the potential impact of the administrative and judicial systems of state government and on local law enforcement if the illegal possession of marijuana for personal use is decriminalized in Hawai'i.

It's high time to legalize or decriminalize marijuana in Hawai'i. More than a decade ago, former governor Ben Cayetano legalized the use of medical marijuana, allowing thousands of patients suffering from painful, debilitating illnesses to take advantage of cannabis's analgesic effects. According to 2014 poll results commissioned by the Drug Policy Action Group (conducted by Qmark Research), 57 percent of local residents support legalizing, taxing, and regulating recreational use of marijuana, a 20 percent increase from a similar poll conducted in 2005. An economic study that accompanied the poll estimated that the state would save \$12 million (mostly in law enforcement costs) by legalizing and regulating cannabis usage, while taxing sales of the substance would bring in at least \$11 million (as much as \$15-20 million, by other analyses), amounting to a \$23 million swing in state funds at a time when revenue is needed to cover such items as unfunded liabilities, rising energy costs, infrastructure improvement, technology investments, and new education initiatives.

Granted, marijuana remains illegal under federal law, where it is classified as a Schedule I substance, along with other psychoaffective drugs, like heroin and LSD. Voters in Colorado and Washington approved ballot measures approving recreational marijuana, creating a legal quagmire for federal drug enforcement efforts (that, it should be said, disproportionately target minorities, leading to elevated incarceration rates for nonviolent crimes). Department of Justice officials are said to be crafting policy proposals to undermine Washington and Colorado voters' will, but most legal commentators believe that this issue will ultimately be decided by the courts. It makes sense, then, to legalize marijuana now, so that Hawai'i can join any federal litigation that arises and place political pressure on the government to reverse its draconian "drug war" policies.

Consider some brief facts about cannabis consumption. To begin, marijuana has a lower organic toxicity and addictive risk than alcohol, along with fewer correlating incidents of influence-related accidents and violence. More than half of all traffic fatalities in Hawaii involve alcohol, yet no one seriously discusses the possibility of prohibition because of path dependence. In other words, alcohol is ingrained in our culture in a way that marijuana consumption is not, despite the former being more dangerous, statistically speaking, than the latter. Similarly, marijuana abuse and dependence afflicts approximately 1.7 percent of the U.S. population, while alcohol abuse afflicts roughly 7.5 percent—over four times as many individuals. Marijuana is also not conclusively linked to an increase in violent behavior in and of itself. Rather, the main report used by the Honolulu Police Department to bolster this assertion, compiled by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, relies on source material that a) did not account for drug-trafficking and dispositional or psychological disorders; and b) failed to account for levels of deviancy (increased usage beyond average consumption rates)—a more stark statistical correlation exists between increased alcohol consumption and violent crime, including child and spousal abuse, yet, again, no one is introducing, much less considering the merits of, limiting the personal consumption of alcohol. Finally, only 30 percent of frequent (every other day or more) cannabis users report symptoms suggesting dependence, in contrast to nearly 70 percent for nicotine and 88 percent for harder drugs, like cocaine, leading one to conclude that marijuana usage parallels alcohol more than harder illicit substances and calling into question legal opinions asserting that marijuana and hard drugs can be readily correlated to one another.

As we establish a more restorative model of justice for Hawai'i, we must dispense with drug laws that promote the prison industry, not public safety. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:21 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: wendygibson9@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR147 on Mar 28, 2017 13:20PM

SCR147

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 28, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: When the LRB attempted to evaluate the effects of cannabis decriminalization they were unable to do so efficiently because of a lack of data and personnel resources. Please give them the opportunity to complete the evaluation by passing SCR147 to give them more guidance. Decriminalization of cannabis has worked well in other states in the US as well as entire countries such as Portugal. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important piece of legislation.

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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To: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Re: SCR147 - Requesting Marijuana Decriminalization Study

Hearing: Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 1:20 PM, Room 229

From: Clifton Otto, MD

Position: Support with changes

Please adopt the following amendments to SCR147:

Replace paragraph 11 with the following:

"WHEREAS, Hawaii is among twenty-eight states that have accepted the medical use of marijuana, establishing that marijuana has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and"

Replace paragraph 16 with the following:

"WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Hawaii residents who have participated in Hawaii's Medical Use of Marijuana Program since its inception in 2000 serve as proof that marijuana's classification as a state Schedule I controlled substance with the "highest degree of danger" is no longer tenable; and"

Add to paragraph 22 the following:

"(7) An analysis determining the impact of the accepted medical use of marijuana in Hawaii upon the state and federal scheduling of marijuana, to include a consideration of removing marijuana from state Schedule I."

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 2:06 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: marilynwick@pobox.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR147 on Mar 28, 2017 13:20PM

SCR147

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 28, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This resolution follows up on last year's decriminalization study by the Legislative Reference Bureau. That study looked at various drugs, but the LRB in its report asked for more guidance. This resolution provides that guidance, and specifically asks the LRB to study the effects of the decriminalization of cannabis, giving specific instructions.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:54 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: j.bobich@tcu.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR147 on Mar 28, 2017 13:20PM*

SCR147

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 28, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph A. Bobich	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.

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