

HB2741 HD 2

Measure Title: RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

Report Title: Medical Cannabis; Insurance Reimbursement;
Working Group

Description: Establishes the Medical Cannabis Insurance Reimbursement Working Group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance. (HB2741 HD2)

Companion: [SB2488](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): BELATTI, MIZUNO

HAWAII EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LICENSED THERAPEUTIC HEALTHCARE

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Consumer Protection and Health (CPH)
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair CPH
Members of the Consumer Protection and Health Committee

Fr: Blake Oshiro, Esq. on behalf of the HEALTH Assn.

Re: Testimony **In Support** on **House Bill (SB) 2741, House Draft (HD) 2**
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS - Establishes the medical cannabis insurance
reimbursement working group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making
medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance.

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

HEALTH is the trade association made up of the eight (8) licensed medical cannabis dispensaries under Haw. Rev. Stat. (HRS) Chapter 329D. We **support HB2741, HD2** which would help create a working group to examine the issues of health insurance coverage for medical cannabis.

The Act 230 working group, established by the 2016 legislature looked at the issue of health insurance coverage, but found that it was extremely complex and multi-layered. The purpose of this bill would be to establish a working group on that topic to dedicate the focus and energy needed to wrestle with this complicated area of the law.

On behalf of our licensed dispensary members, we believe that we can provide a unique perspective -- not just from our experience with patients and their access, but also with their economic and payment issues. We also believe we can provide insights into the administration of the program and how it potentially would be able to interact with insurers should some form of coverage be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2741-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:16:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; the Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2741 HD2** relating to Medical Cannabis; Insurance Reimbursement; and a Working Group.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2741 HD2** and support its passage.

HB2741 HD2 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes the Medical Cannabis Insurance Reimbursement Working Group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support fair and equitable access to medical marijuana to be administered by the State of Hawaii's Department of Health. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 386-387 (2016)).

Given that **HB2741 HD2** establishes the Medical Cannabis Insurance Reimbursement Working Group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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Written Testimony

HB2741, HD2 RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Baker 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 H.B. No. 2741, H.D. 2, Relating to Medical Cannabis.

The purpose of this measure is to establish a working group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance.

Specifically, the measure requires the working group to explore options and make recommendations on the following issues:

- (1) Actions taken in other states;
- (2) Potential parallel reimbursement models for other types of non-prescription therapies;
- (3) Associated liability issues for health plans;
- (4) Potential impact on insurance premiums;
- (5) Insurance riders for alternative therapies, which could serve as a model for medical cannabis reimbursement; and
- (6) Other relevant issues that may arise, pursuant to the discretion of the working group.

The measure also requires the working group to:

- (1) Provide periodic updates to the Legislature and make recommendations for any legislative or administrative action it deems appropriate to address issues surrounding insurance reimbursement for medical cannabis; and
- (2) Submit a final report, including recommendations for further action, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019.

The measure also requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau provide research and drafting assistance to the working group.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on the measure, we submit the following comments for your consideration.

With regard to the request that the Bureau provide research and drafting assistance to the working group, the Bureau believes that it can accommodate this request; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.

HB-2741-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:23:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebeca Zamora	Individual	Support	No

Comments: