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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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Written Testimony

HB2741, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

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

Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Dela Cruz 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, S.D. 1, 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 staff, 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 staff, research, and drafting assistance to the working group, as currently drafted, it is unclear what type of staffing requirements are envisioned under the measure. If the intent is to have Bureau staff responsible for the ministerial operations of the working group, then we must note that Bureau staff has little to no experience in such activities. In addition, the Bureau does not possess any priority in securing meeting rooms or equipment for the activities of the working group. However, if the intent of the staffing request under the measure is limited to research and drafting assistance, then 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:37:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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 SD1** relating to Medical Cannabis; Insurance Reimbursement; and a Working Group.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **HB2741 HD2 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB2741 HD2 SD1 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, effective 7/1/2050.

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 SD1** establishes the medical cannabis insurance reimbursement working group to address the complexities surrounding the topic of making medical cannabis reimbursable by health insurance, effective 7/1/2050, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities

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