



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health
Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 1:20 p.m.

By

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Professor & Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD,
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SB 2011– RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

Chairs Kahele and Baker, Vice Chairs Kim and Tokuda, and members of the committees:

SB 2011 allows the University of Hawai'i, John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), in partnership with the Department of Health, to collect data from voluntary qualifying patients, maintain a database, and conduct research and development regarding the efficacy of medical cannabis use in Hawaii and its related outcomes. The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2011, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents approved executive biennium budget. As the medical cannabis program expands, it is important to continue research and development on medical cannabis as well as the outcomes of its use among qualifying patients in Hawai'i.

JABSOM has the ability, infrastructure and expertise to lead the effort in conducting the medical research which is vital to understanding the benefits of medical cannabis treatment. JABSOM's Complementary and Integrative Medicine Department (CIM) is responsible for the development and dissemination of alternative medical therapy, as well as the investigation and research of the scientific foundation of these techniques. It also hosts the JABSOM quantitative health sciences group, which includes experienced biostatisticians and other data scientists, with extensive expertise in biomedical research design and data analysis.

CIM faculty member, Dr. Amy Brown, has scientific expertise in medical cannabis and has successfully organized the first Medical Cannabis CME Program at JABSOM last November. The CIM quantitative health sciences group has experience in developing as well as maintaining databases and conducting health outcome data analysis and research.

JABSOM's Department of Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) also has the expertise to evaluate the effects of medical cannabis use on cognitive performance, including learning, memory, and executive function. CMB faculty Drs. Jun Panee and Mariana Gerschenson have recently published on the association between chronic cannabis use and cognition, and it is important to assess how the frequency and dosage of medical cannabis use might affect cognition, which is relevant to public safety (such as driving) and job performance of the voluntary qualifying patients.

The funding would allow the development and maintenance of the database and the gathering of initial data. To conduct meaningful outcome research on efficacy and potential adverse effects, however, adequate information from a sufficiently large number of patients will be needed, perhaps with supplemental clinical assessments (given sufficient funding). Nonetheless, SB 2011 is an important step toward collecting meaningful data in the developing Hawai'i State medical cannabis program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

SB-2011

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:40:59 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2018 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Virginia Pressler, M.D., Director of Health	Department of Health	Comments	Yes

Comments:

testimony for SB2011

SB-2011

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:04:29 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2018 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2011

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:24:49 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2018 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brown		Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair Espero and Committee Members,

I support SB2011 as a private citizen and not in my connection to the John A Burns School of Medicine as an associate professor who organized their 2017 Medical Cannabis symposium.

This bill will allow us to work with the Department of Health to gather efficacy data on medical cannabis use. It is imperative to provide evidence-based data from a medical stand point to ensure patient efficacy and safety, especially since Cannabis has historically not been tested. We could collect data and publish the results (without subject identification to protect their privacy). It is also very important to gather evidence in a tabular format so that members of the legislature have scientific literature to inform them about each decision before them regarding any new qualifying ailments. JABSOM and DOH can assist with providing that service. Mahalo for considering this positive, proactive legislation and writing SB2011. Your efforts are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Amy C. Brown