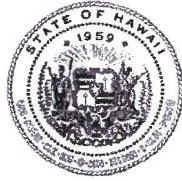


SB 2011

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

Allows the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine with support from 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 the State and related health outcomes. Makes an appropriation



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LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2011
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, VICE CHAIR
SENATOR KAIALII KAHELE, CHAIR
SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 8, 2018

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Reduction of up to \$100,000 in FY 2018-2019 funds available for medical
2 cannabis registry and dispensary program operations.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this bill, but strongly
4 recommends against the use of the medical cannabis registration and regulation special fund for
5 this purpose.

6 The department agrees that data collected voluntarily from patients registered in the State's
7 medical cannabis program on the debilitating medical condition being treated, and the usage,
8 dosage, and results of the medical cannabis treatment could be useful in research and
9 development of medical cannabis best practices. Furthermore, the department agrees that it is
10 appropriate for University of Hawaii John A. Burns Schools of Medicine to conduct such
11 research and the department could support this activity by informing qualifying patients about
12 the research and how to volunteer to participate.

13 However, the department is concerned that funding this activity through an appropriation out of
14 the medical cannabis registry and regulation special fund would negatively impact the
15 department's ability to operate the medical cannabis program, including timely processing of
16 patient registrations, and the licensing and regulation of medical cannabis dispensaries. The
17 medical cannabis registry and regulation special fund consists of fees paid by patients and

1 dispensary licensees. These fees are collected for the purpose of maintaining medical cannabis
2 registration and regulatory activities. Diverting these fees from program operations to research
3 jeopardizes the sustainability of the medical cannabis program. The department strongly
4 recommends against the use of the medical cannabis registration and regulation special fund to
5 support the data collection and research activities in this bill.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.