

House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Scott Nishimoto (Chair), Rep. Joy San Buenaventura (Vice Chair)

Re: SB2407 SD1 HD1 - Relating to Medical Cannabis

From: Clifton Otto, MD (Support)

Public Hearing: March 21, 2018, 2:15 pm, Room 325

Thank you for considering this bill, which provides a path towards recognizing that the medical use of cannabis in Hawaii is currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, which means that our Medical Use of Cannabis Program does not violate federal law.

Given the perilous position that has been created by failing to address this misconception that our program violates federal law, further immediate steps are necessary to protect our patients and dispensaries.

Please consider the following amendment to this bill:

SECTION 3. In the meantime, Section 329-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding the following subsection:  
(f) The enumeration of cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinols or chemical derivatives of these as Schedule I controlled substances does not apply to the medical use of cannabis pursuant to Section 329, Part IX, and Section 329D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Please note that Guam has the same clause in their UCSA. See page 11, Section 2 of [The Joaquin Concepcion Compassionate Cannabis Use Act of 2013](#).

Thank you.

**SB-2407-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:37:11 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/21/2018 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2407-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:19:36 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/21/2018 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl Bergquist	Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Comments	No

Comments:

We respectfully ask that you restore the SD1 version of this bill, dealing with the use of medical cannabis to help Hawai'i tackle the opioid epidemic. Medical cannabis can be effective in lieu of, or in combination with, opioids when treating chronic pain in particular. Moreover, research is increasingly showing that medical cannabis, alone or in combination with other treatments, can be effective in treating patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, especially the symptoms associated with withdrawal.

Please see our testimony submitted to both CPH and HHS regarding the need for this bill, the existing research as well as its genesis as a recommendation from the Legislature's own Act 230 Medical Cannabis Working Group.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SB-2407-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 3:58:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/21/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

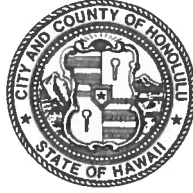
Comments:

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**LATE**

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY  
JONATHAN GREMS  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-TA

March 21, 2018

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2407, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Cannabis

I am Captain Phillip Johnson of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 2407, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Cannabis.

This bill seeks to allow the medical use of cannabis for the treatment of opioid addiction, substance abuse, and withdrawal symptoms resulting from the treatment of those conditions. There is not enough research so show the efficacy of using cannabis to treat opioid use disorders, and it switches out one addiction for another. This will need to be thoroughly researched before treating such a problem.

The fact remains that the Food and Drug Administration has not approved marijuana for medical use. Doctors who are prescribing medical marijuana to qualifying patients do not actually know which formulations or which dosing to give for specific symptoms or disorders.


The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2407, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Medical Cannabis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

  
Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

  
Phillip Johnson, Captain  
Narcotics/Vice Division