



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 970, SD 1  
RELATING TO CIVIL SERVICE EXEMPTION FOR  
THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY PROGRAM.**

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: Friday, February 24, 2017      Room Number: 211

1    **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2    **Department Testimony:** The Department STRONGLY SUPPORTS this Administration bill as  
3    it will temporarily extend the exempt status of the five (5) full time equivalent (FTE) medical  
4    marijuana dispensary licensing staff by three (3) years from June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2020.

5            If not approved the Department is in jeopardy of losing these staff prior to June 30, 2017,  
6    because of the reduction in salary from conversion to civil service. The additional three (3) years  
7    is necessary to stabilize program operations.

8            Due to the novelty of the program, a local workforce with specific and specialized  
9    experience in dispensary regulations was not available. The Department is fortunate to have  
10   hired as its five (5) staff, a supervisor, two (2) surveyors and two (2) persons with strong  
11   administrative support in accounting, contracts, and secretarial services.

12           The Department has made good progress in implementing the MMJ licensing program.  
13   Much work remains to bring all dispensaries to the point of cultivating and selling medical  
14   marijuana. A disruption of the staffing will halt or significantly delay inspections aimed at

1 ensuring patient safety, product safety, and public safety, and the eventual sale of medical  
2 marijuana products.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

# PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME



TO: HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE  
TESTIMONY

Aloha Legislators,

Please, LEGALIZE MARIJUANA NOW!

The marijuana prohibition is founded on paranoia incited by corporate greed. The CDC reports that 90,000 Americans die from alcohol every year, while marijuana kills ZERO Americans. How can Hawaii justify celebrating the success of Hawaii's wineries and microbreweries, allowing tourists to visit tasting rooms for alcohol products, while cannabis grow centers are required to be concealed from the public, and kept under 24/7 video surveillance.

In 2000, Hawaii rejected the federal prohibition on marijuana by establishing medical marijuana laws. Since then, Hawaii has protected registered patients from prosecution (because marijuana is medicine), while sending other citizens to jail for "marijuana" crimes (because marijuana has no medical value). There exists a clear, facial contradiction between marijuana's classification as a schedule I drug and its allowable use by qualifying patients for medical conditions. Hawaii is practicing SELECTIVE PROSECUTION against marijuana consumers.

The only just solution is to legalize marijuana. Tax and regulate Hawaii's estimated billion-dollar-a-year recreational marijuana industry, and raise over 100 million dollars every year in revenue. Legalization of cannabis will also decrease expenses incurred in fighting the failed prohibition, clear court dockets, save families broken by incarceration, and create thousands of new legal jobs and business. WIN- WIN -WIN

Mahalo for your kind consideration,

PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME  
Maui, HI Brian Murphy, Director



Aloha Legislators,

I OPPOSE this bill, because there is no need for a medical marijuana dispensary program staff in the Department of Health. Marijuana should be legal. Does Hawaii have an alcohol dispensary program staff?

I OPPOSE the entire medical marijuana dispensary system; **marijuana should be legal**. Polls show that an ever-increasing majority of Hawaii's citizens agree believe that marijuana should be legal.

Washington, Oregon, and Colorado are funding important programs with revenue from recreational marijuana instead of sending good citizens to jail for enjoying a substance that is scientifically proven, far and away, safer than alcohol, according to our US CDC.

The Green Harvest Helicopter Surveillance of Maui's peaceful neighborhoods last year were outrageous!

In 2000, Hawaii lawmakers lead the nation, by passing vanguard legislation allowing medical marijuana. Hawaii can again take the lead in the nation by legalizing marijuana and creating thousands of new legal jobs, and businesses.

**Please, LEGALIZE CANNABIS.**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Mary Whispering Wind  
Maui Hawaii

