



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1383, RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2019

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Michelle M.L. Puu, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to decriminalize the possession, use, distribution, and cultivation of marijuana. The bill proposes instead civil monetary sanctions for such conduct. The bill further proposes the expungement of prior criminal marijuana convictions and dismissal of pending marijuana charges. Moreover, the bill seeks to create a working group which would be administratively attached to the Department of the Attorney General and designed to examine how marijuana might further yield financial revenue.

As this bill has nothing to do with the limited use of marijuana for medical purposes, this testimony does not address or pertain to that issue.

We oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. Marijuana possession, cultivation, and distribution is illegal under federal law.

As the bill acknowledges, marijuana is still a Schedule I controlled substance under federal law. It is a violation of federal law to grow, distribute, or use marijuana. Although this bill could decriminalize conduct prohibited under state law, federal laws regarding the nonmedical use of marijuana cannot be ignored.

Importantly, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a memorandum withdrawing earlier directives and instructed prosecutors to enforce federal laws related to marijuana activities (Sessions Memo). Although the Blumenauer

amendment to the continuing resolution extending the appropriations act restricts funding for federal law enforcement actions by the DOJ, this limitation applies only to the medical use of cannabis.

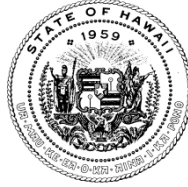
Unless and until the federal government changes its laws regarding marijuana, the State should not expand the legalization or decriminalization of this drug beyond medical use.

2. Specific legal concerns with the bill.

Section 2 (pages 2-4, lines 17-2) seeks to replace the term “marijuana” with the term “cannabis.” Providing a new term and definition is unnecessary and likely to produce unwarranted confusion as the term “marijuana” is already defined and used throughout chapters 329 and 712 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Section 20 (page 26, lines 9-11) seeks to repeal parts V (dismissal/expungement of marijuana charges/convictions) and VI (new civil offenses in chapter 281 of the Hawaii revised statutes) of the bill on July 1, 2021. The repeal of part V of the bill would mean that accused/offenders would lose the ability to dismiss or expunge such offenses after July 1, 2021. This temporal restriction creates constitutional equal protection concerns for those who fail to take action within the limited time frame. Moreover, with respect to the repeal of part VI, it is unclear whether the newly proposed offenses would cease to exist and leave no restrictions on the conduct at issue.

Based on the above concerns, we respectfully request that this bill be held.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 4, 2019
2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 1383
RELATING TO MARIJUANA

House Committee on Judiciary

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill which decriminalizes certain offenses relating to marijuana, establishes a schedule of monetary fines for violations, provides for the dismissal of charges and expungement of criminal records based solely on cannabis offenses, and establishes the cannabis evaluation working group.

Based on the information we have collected from our State accident history and reports from other states that have legalized marijuana, DOT believes that decriminalizing marijuana in Hawaii will increase the risk of drivers, who shortly after consuming marijuana drive their car, being involved in a traffic incident/crash and causing additional injuries and deaths on Hawaii's roadways.

As the bill is currently written, there is no representation from DOT and each county's law enforcement in the cannabis evaluation working group to ensure that the membership includes those who are directly involved with the transportation of cannabis, whether it's via our roads, air or waterways. The working group is also tasked with examining other state laws and outcomes pertaining to cannabis and ways in which cannabis use other than for medical purposes may provide benefits or raise questions in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

LATE

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DWIGHT K. NADAMOTO
ACTING FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawai`i**

February 4, 2019

RE: H.B. 1383; RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 1383.

The purpose of this bill is to downgrade essentially all levels of marijuana possession and cultivation—even in concentrated form or in extremely large quantities—to a violation punishable only by monetary fines. Not only would this lower the severity of possessing (for example) fifty pounds of marijuana to something less than possessing an open bottle of beer, but in the larger scope, it would essentially eliminate any significance that the legislature, law enforcement, and ultimately the public, place on regulating this Schedule I controlled substance.

Pursuant to both State and Federal schedules, possession of any amount of marijuana is strictly prohibited, except by qualifying patients registered to use medical marijuana (and their caregivers). In fact, the Federal schedule of controlled substances was recently updated in December 2018, and continues to list marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance. Even in recent years, numerous and ongoing studies have shown that marijuana presents significant health concerns, particularly to youth, who will inevitably receive the message that marijuana is simply "not that bad" because "it's not even a crime." Businesses who currently allow smoke breaks for those who smoke cigarettes would potentially see a sharp increase in smoking marijuana on or off the job, because "it's not even a crime." Given the strong potential for widespread abuse and negative effects on the community, the Department strongly maintains that marijuana should continue to be strictly regulated and enforced, and that current statutes are appropriate in this regard.

For this reason, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes H.B. 1383. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.hawaii.gov

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
JONATHAN GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-TA

February 4, 2019

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1383, Relating to Marijuana

I am Major Calvin Tong of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly opposes House Bill No. 1383, Relating to Marijuana. This bill, in part, seeks to defacto legalize marijuana by removing from the Hawaii Revised Statutes existing criminal prohibitions and penalties related to marijuana.

Marijuana is harmful. The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area released their report, "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact," Volume 5, Update September 2018. The purpose, as the title suggests, is to track the impact of marijuana legalization in the state of Colorado.

Some of their findings are summarized below: (Note: the numbers reported below occurred after Colorado legalized recreational marijuana).

- Marijuana related traffic deaths increased 151 percent;
- Traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled from 55 in 2013 to 138 in 2017;

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
February 4, 2019
Page 2

- Colorado past month marijuana use for ages 12 and under is ranked third in the nation and is 85 percent higher than the national average;
- The yearly number of marijuana-related hospitalizations increased 148 percent;
- Marijuana-only exposures more than tripled (2013-2017);
- Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail has increased 1,042 percent from an average of 52 parcels (2009-2012) to 594 parcels (2013-2017); and
- Marijuana tax revenue represent approximately nine tenths of one percent of Colorado's fiscal year 2017 budget.

The HPD is concerned that the increasing availability of marijuana in the state will have a negative impact on public safety and increase costs especially in the areas such as impaired driving and diversion of product.

Keeping drugs illegal reduces their availability and lessens the willingness to use them. Legalizing drugs increases their availability and misuse regardless of the controls that are in place.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 1383, Relating to Marijuana.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Calvin Tong, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



Susan Ballard
Chief of Police



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

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February 4, 2019



TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

LATE

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: House Bill No. 1383 – RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Maui Police Department strongly OPPOSES the passing of HB 1383, which approves the legalization of recreational marijuana use in the State of Hawaii.

As Law Enforcement, we understand the reasoning behind decriminalizing and regulating small amounts of marijuana for personal use, establishing a licensed scheme for the cultivation, sale, and use of small amounts of marijuana for personal use, to tax marijuana sales in the same manner as state excise taxes and subject income derived from marijuana sales to state income tax. Marijuana, however, is a gateway drug, meaning that a person who ingests marijuana is more than likely to progress to other drugs such as Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Heroin, and prescription pills. The harm of allowing the public to possess personal use quantities of marijuana outweighs the benefits.

We understand that there are medical issues tied to marijuana, but the vast majority of the public does not suffer from these medical issues. We cannot allow the public to medicate themselves at their discretion. In addition, by allowing possession for personal use, where is the regulation for the people who ingest/smoke marijuana. It is proven that second hand smoke from marijuana can and will affect the surrounding people. We do not want marijuana freely ingested in the public, nor do we want marijuana ingested or smoked near children. These concerns have not been addressed in this bill.

Furthermore, even though the bill lists the transfer of marijuana or sale to people of 21 years or older does not preclude the fact that if marijuana possession and consumption were to be legal, the general consensus is that it would be tolerated by all. This mind set not only puts our youth in danger but downplays the dangers of unregulated marijuana use.

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
February 4, 2019
Page 2

Members of the Maui Police Department have spoken to law enforcement from Colorado, one of the first states to fully legalize marijuana consumption and possession. Many if not all of those law enforcement entities in Colorado spoken to have relayed the downfall since the legalization. They cite increased crime, driving under the influence of marijuana and illegal sales of marijuana as major pitfalls to the legalization of marijuana. Many have reported their desire to abolish that law.

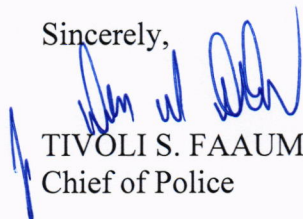
Marijuana is already regulated in Hawaii. Why decriminalize it so those people who have no medical condition are allowed to get "high?" The medical community is also divided on the use of marijuana. With the creation of Marinol, a pharmaceutical drug which gives a patient the benefits of the marijuana plant with very low psychoactive properties, there is no need to ingest marijuana. Many patients opt not to take this drug. Why? They want to get "high." Marinol has been proven to give the patient appetite and other benefits of marijuana with low psychoactive properties. By decriminalizing the use of marijuana, we are giving the public the go ahead to get "high" without consequence.

Studies have shown marijuana sent to the University of Tennessee for TetraHydroCannabinol (THC, the active ingredient in marijuana) from the state of Hawaii has increased in THC levels over the years, some having 30% THC levels or more. Bear in mind that marijuana previously had THC levels of 10% or less. New strains are being bred to contain higher levels of THC. There is a growing concern because the high levels of THC on a person have not been studied enough in the medical community. In fact, there are more Emergency Room visits in Colorado from marijuana use then there has ever been before.

Due to these concerns the Maui Police Department OPPOSES HB 1383.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
Chief of Police



LATE

Board of Directors:

House Committee on Judiciary

Gary L. Hooser
President

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) SUPPORTS
HB 1383

Andrea N. Brower
Ikaika M. Hussey
Co-Vice Presidents

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee
Members:

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Treasurer

On behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I
would like to offer testimony in support of HB 1383.

Bart E. Dame
Secretary

HAPA supports this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people
clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the
conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Paul Achitoff

Nancy Aleck

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Harrelson

Mahalo,

Kaleikoa Ka'eo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Miranda

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

Walter Ritte Jr.

Pua Rossi-Fukino

Karen Shishido

Leslie Malulani Shizue Miki



Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director
HEARING DATE: February 4, 2019, 2:05PM
RE: HB1383, RELATING TO MARIJUANA, **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) **supports** this measure to decriminalize all offenses related to cannabis ("marijuana"). In particular, we applaud the provisions to dismiss pending charges and expunge convictions related to cannabis offenses. While we support full-scale legalization of adult use cannabis, this bill also begins to reverse the brutal impact of the decades' long, needless criminalization of this substance. Regarding legalization, we note that the suggested evaluation working group proposes to address this in considering the future of cannabis in Hawai'i. Below we offer some thoughts and suggested amendments.

Just last week, on January 29th, [the Baltimore, Maryland prosecutor, Marilyn Mosby, said her office would stop prosecuting cannabis possession](#) no matter the person's criminal history. Going even further, she also requested that the courts vacate some 5,000 convictions. Juxtapose that with how our county prosecuting attorneys are likely reacting to this very bill. It's crucial to note that Mosby is doing this in a state that has already *decriminalized* cannabis possession. It's the continued disparate impact on communities of color that compels her office to act. It is our hope that this bill by

decriminalizing *all*, i.e. not just small amount possession, cannabis offenses can help tackle the lingering injustice seen in Maryland.

Some numbers:

- From 2008-16, nearly **8,000 adult Hawai'i residents were arrested for simple cannabis possession**. Many others are arrested for growing for, or selling to, those in possession. During the same period, thousands of juveniles were also arrested. The collateral consequences in terms of denied student loans, housing, jobs and for some immigrants, deportation, are devastating for an individual, their family and ultimately the community;
- [Just a few weeks ago, we finally got the crime numbers for 2017](#), and contrary to [public sentiment](#), the [opinions of our candidates for electoral office](#) and [the national trend](#), enforcement continues and the number of **arrests for adults at 630 and juveniles at 380 per year** remains steady;
- *Beyond sheer volume*, the disparate impact of cannabis criminalization is most keenly felt by the enforcement in the Native Hawaiian and Filipino communities. While studies show that cannabis use is nearly uniform across groups, e.g. at **130, the number of Native Hawaiians youth arrested in 2017 for cannabis possession was the same as the number of white youth arrestees**;

If we do not address the inequities created by the criminalization in the first place, then history has taught us nothing. It is therefore of the essence that any cannabis legislation such as this bill include the types of [social justice policies](#) like the dismissal of charges and expungement mechanisms found in this bill.

Suggested Amendments:

- In contemplating *expungements*, it is important to remember that many obstacles remain for an individual to actually apply for this relief. [California last year enacted a law that automates the expungement](#), in part because some jurisdictions made it easy while others did not, and individuals who would benefit from it could not also find the time to, or were even aware that they could, apply;
- Regarding the fines to be set for the new cannabis offenses, commendably set forth in Chapter 281 (Intoxicating Liquor and Cannabis) Hawai'i Revised Statutes instead of in Chapter 329 (Controlled Substances), we suggest they remain as low as possible and commensurate with the offense. Further, high fines that cannot be paid may result in the eventual criminalization of an individual;
- For the evaluation group, we suggest the inclusion of the following representatives among others:
 - Two current medical cannabis licensees;
 - A representative from the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i;
 - A representative from the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i;
 - A representative from an ancillary cannabis business in Hawai'i.

We are hopeful that this bill, by ending criminalization, can mark the start of a serious conversation on the future of cannabis in Hawai'i. Working together, we will get there.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE



TO: JUD Committee

RE: Organizational Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1383

2/4/2019

YPDA strongly supports the decriminalization of marijuana in Hawai'i. We would prefer full legalization, however. Most of the following arguments are true for both decriminalization and legalization, though the revenue generation aspect would be lower with decriminalization compared to full legalization.

Prohibition has completely failed to reduce marijuana use. Despite the fact that police departments have made aggressive enforcement of marijuana laws an increasing priority and states have spent billions of dollars on such enforcement, it has failed to diminish marijuana's use or availability. In 2002, there were 14.5 million people aged 12 or older (6.2 percent of the total population) who used marijuana in a given month; by 2011, that number had increased to 18.1 million (7 percent of the total population). The White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy found that marijuana prices dropped and stabilized after the early 1990s, and several surveys show marijuana use rose and stabilized among youth in the same time period.

Prohibition has resulted in mass incarceration and over-policing. More than 20,000 people were incarcerated for marijuana possession in 2010. Between 2001 and 2010, there were 8,244,943 marijuana arrests, of which 88 percent, were for possession. In 2010 alone, there were 889,133 marijuana arrests—300,000 more than arrests for all violent crimes combined—or one bust every 37 seconds. Marijuana arrests have increased between 2001 and 2010 and now account for 52 percent of all drug arrests in the United States.

Prohibition exacerbates institutional racism within the prison system. On average, a Black person is 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white person, even though Blacks

and whites use marijuana at similar rates—a disparity that increased 32.7 percent between 2001 and 2010. Such racial disparities in marijuana possession arrests exist in every part of the country, in counties large and small, urban and rural, wealthy and poor, and with large and small Black populations. These numbers are similarly reflected in Hawai'i for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders when compared to other ethnic groups. Legalization is the smartest and surest way to end targeted enforcement of marijuana laws in communities of color.

Marijuana is more than 100 times safer to use than alcohol. In a comparative analysis on the risks of recreational drugs, alcohol was the top contender, while cannabis was considered the lowest risk.

Marijuana has legitimate medicinal value. Studies are starting to show marijuana's potential in shrinking aggressive cancerous brain tumors. Furthermore, a recent American study found that treating epilepsy and other seizure disorders with CBD reduced seizures by 54 percent. Use of THC reduced spasticity in sufferers of multiple sclerosis by 30 percent. Cannabis may also reduce depression and relieve anxiety.

Youth marijuana use rates have remained stable. Since adult-use recreational cannabis was legalized in Colorado, many feared that it would lead to increased consumption among youth. In fact, legalization has had the exact opposite effect: due to education and regulations restricting use to adults, the percentage of teenagers in Colorado using cannabis has been steadily dropping from 22 percent to 20 percent between 2011 and 2013, and remains below the national average of 23.4 percent. Teen levels are holding steady nationally as well.

Legalization has not made our roads less safe. The total number of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs has declined in Colorado and Washington, the first two states to regulate marijuana for adult use. There is no clear correlation between marijuana legalization and crash rates. The crash rates in both states are statistically similar to comparable states without legal marijuana.

Legalization has not resulted in a public health crisis. Calls to poison control centers and visits to emergency departments for marijuana exposure remain relatively uncommon. In Oregon, less than 1 percent of calls to the state's poison centers in 2016 were related to marijuana exposure. In Colorado, a mere 0.04 percent of the state's 2.3 million emergency department visits in 2014 were for marijuana exposure.

Marijuana legalization is linked to lower rates of opioid related harm. Early studies have revealed a correlation between states with access to medical and adult-use recreational marijuana and lower rates of opioid overdose mortality (M.D. Livingston et al., "Recreational cannabis legalization and opioid-related deaths in Colorado, 2000-2015," *American Journal of Public Health*, 107, No. 11, November 2017, p. 1827-1829). This analysis of opioid overdose deaths in Colorado found that, after marijuana was legalized for adult use, there was a reduction of 0.7 deaths per month in the state and that the decades-long upward trend of overdoses began to decline after 2014, the first year of marijuana retail sales in the state. In states with legal access to marijuana, overdose death rates are almost 25 percent lower than in states with no legal access, and the reductions in overdose death rates have strengthened over time (M.A. Bachhuber et al., "Medical cannabis laws and opioid analgesic overdose mortality in the United States, 1999-2010," *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 174, 10, 2014, p. 1668-1673). Legal access to

marijuana has been associated with a 23 percent reduction in opioid dependence or abuse-related hospitalizations and 15 percent fewer opioid treatment admissions.

Legalization will save states hundreds of millions of dollars. Enforcing cannabis possession laws costs the U.S. \$3.6 billion annually. Arrests for marijuana in all legal marijuana states and Washington, D.C. have plummeted. The reduction in arrests has resulted in substantial savings, estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars, for law enforcement and the judiciary. It is yet unknown how much reductions in opioid use will save states in long-term medical costs.

Legalization will generate hundreds of millions more in new revenue. Marijuana sales in Washington generated \$315 million in tax revenues in the 2016-17 fiscal year, and \$70 million in Oregon, more than double the predicted revenue. Since sales began in Colorado in 2014, the state has collected almost \$600 million in revenue. A 2010 paper from the libertarian Cato Institute found that universally legalizing marijuana would net all levels of the government \$17.4 billion annually—half of that would come from reduced spending and costs (particularly for drug enforcement), and the rest would come from taxing marijuana like alcohol and tobacco, and from new economic activity.

Revenue from regulating cannabis sales has been put to immense social good. Colorado distributed \$230 million to the Colorado Department of Education between 2015 and 2017 to fund school construction, early literacy, bullying prevention, and behavioral health. Oregon allocates 40 percent of marijuana tax revenue to its state school fund, depositing \$34 million into the fund so far. The state also distributes 20 percent to alcohol and drug treatment. Nevada's 15 percent wholesale tax is projected to bring in \$56 million over the next two years to fund state schools. Washington dedicates 25 percent to substance use disorder treatment, education and prevention. The state also distributes 55 percent of its marijuana tax revenues to fund basic health plans. Alaska will collect an estimated \$12 million annually, which will fund drug treatment and community residential centers. Massachusetts and California, by statute (M.G.L.A. 94G § 14(b)(v); Cal. Rev. & Tax. Code § 34019(d)), will invest a share of their marijuana tax revenues in the communities most adversely impacted by drug arrests and incarceration, particularly low-income communities of color, to help repair the harms of unequal drug law enforcement.

A legal cannabis industry would create thousands of new jobs. Preliminary estimates suggest that the legal marijuana industry already employs between 165,000 to 230,000 full- and part-time workers across the country. Colorado has created 10,000 new jobs in the legal cannabis industry since 2014, boosting the economy and contributing to a lowering of the unemployment rate to just 6 percent, making it one of the lowest in the nation.

A legal cannabis industry would undercut the black market. Mexican cartels were once the top suppliers of cannabis to the United States but, since legalization has swept across four states and Washington, D.C., the amount seized by the U.S. Border Patrol has dropped 24 percent in the past year, and the price of Mexican-grown cannabis has dropped from \$90 down to \$30 per kilogram, dramatically reducing the profitability of illegal activity. Legalization brings proper regulation and infrastructure, and ushers in potency testing, product variety, warning labels, and overall peace of mind for the consumer.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Young Progressives Demanding Action



Hawai'i

Committees: House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 4, 2019, 2:05 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of H.B. 1383, Relating to Marijuana

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of H.B. 1383**, which seeks to decriminalize certain offenses relating to cannabis. This measure is a meaningful step towards ending Hawai'i's participation in the failed war on drugs, and will reduce the targeted enforcement of current cannabis laws.

H.B. 1383 provides a safe and smart alternative to current cannabis laws.

Our state's ineffective cannabis laws have damaged civil liberties in many ways – eroding protections against searches and seizures, putting large numbers of non-violent individuals behind bars and targeting people of color. Eliminating criminal penalties for certain cannabis offenses will prevent thousands of people from becoming needlessly entangled in the criminal justice system, eliminate many collateral consequences that flow from cannabis arrests, and allow Hawai'i to reinvest the money it saves for important community needs.

H.B. 1383 takes a step towards ending Hawai'i's participation in the nation's failed War on Drugs, which has cost taxpayers \$1 trillion but has produced little to no effect on the supply of or demand for drugs. The War on Drugs has sent millions of people to prison for low-level offenses and seriously eroded our civil liberties and civil rights while costing taxpayers billions of dollars a year, with nothing to show for it except our status as the world's largest incarcerator. There are 2.2 million people behind bars in this country—around 21 percent of these individuals are locked up for drug-related offenses.

H.B. 1383 will reduce the number of unreasonable arrests for cannabis possession in our already bloated criminal justice system.

In 2017 alone, there were 627 arrests for cannabis possession in Hawai'i. Arrest for possession of small amounts of cannabis is one of the most common points of entry into the criminal justice system. Removing criminal penalties for certain cannabis offenses will keep people out of jail, and will eliminate the many collateral consequences that flow from cannabis arrests, thereby reducing the gross number of people entering or otherwise harmed by the criminal justice system. Money currently spent on enforcement could be used for efforts that would *actually* increase public safety.

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
February 4, 2019
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Decriminalizing certain cannabis-related offenses will reduce targeted enforcement of cannabis laws against communities of color.

Not all communities have been impacted equally by current enforcement of Hawai‘i’s cannabis laws; these laws overly impact men under 25 and people of native Hawaiian descent. These groups are arrested in numbers disproportionate to their share of the population.¹

H.B. 1383 would allow for the expungement of criminal records for those previously convicted of cannabis offenses.

Thousands of people in Hawai‘i have criminal records due to cannabis possession that seriously impact their ability to get a job, receive a loan, or rent/buy a home. H.B. 1383 allows for the expungement of criminal records for people who were, prior to the effective date of this legislation, convicted of a cannabis offense. This is an important provision of the bill because it alleviates some of the harm caused by the failed War on Drugs.

For the above reasons, we urge the Committee to support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai‘i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai‘i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving Hawai‘i for 50 years.

¹ David Nixon, *Budgetary Implications of Cannabis Decriminalization and Legalization for Hawai‘i*, January 2013 available at http://acluHawai‘i.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/econreptcannabis1_2013.pdf.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i
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Submitted Online: February 3, 2019

Hearing: Monday, February 4, 2019

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony in opposition to the decriminalization of marijuana. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations. As such, we have serious concerns about this bill and its ultimate ramifications on the wider community – especially with regards to our keiki. Although we leave the discussion as to the regulatory functions and applicability of its passage to the experts, we do offer these reasons why many parents in our community are opposed to the decriminalization of marijuana:

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law.

While Hawaii has legalized marijuana for medical purposes, it is still illegal to possess, use or distribute marijuana according to federal law.

Legalization will directly impact Hawaii's keiki.

According to the Hawaii State Department of Health, an estimated 45 percent of high school students and 26 percent of middle schoolers across the state said they have used e-cigarettesⁱ. In fact, a report by Hawaii Public Radio indicated that it was higher than the national average. If they are already dabbling in an illegal substance, do we really believe that marijuana will somehow escape their attention and use?

A recent news story in Washington reported that more kids are now using drugs since marijuana was legalized.ⁱⁱ There is no doubt that if marijuana were legalized and/or decriminalized, more people, including our keiki, would have access to it. Even though proponents have tried to dismiss this argument, clinical studies continue to prove that marijuana's easy access can and will hurt our keikiⁱⁱⁱ.



Page Two
HB1383 Relating to Marijuana

Hawai'i's roads could very well become a testing ground for legal limits

In Colorado, drugged driving went from killing roughly one person every 6.5 days to now every 2.5 days, since legalization was passed^{iv}. Marijuana use affects driving because it stays in the system way longer than alcohol. It is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims. That number increases when you add other factors like alcohol consumption.

The process for determining if a driver is intoxicated by marijuana is far more complex and costly than the roadside breathalyzer. In its 2019 testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Hawaii State Department of Transportation reported that “22 percent of fatal crashes that occurred during calendar years 2013 to 2017 resulted in positive findings for marijuana in drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians.”

Family factors can serve both protective and risk functions in adolescents' substance use.

There is considerable evidence that individuals who have a close family member with a substance use history are at an increased risk of later problematic substance use.^v

The bottom line is that by decriminalizing marijuana, we believe it will affect adolescents' use by increasing its availability through social connections, by creating a message within social norms that show marijuana use as a normal thing, or by reinforcing beliefs that marijuana use is not harmful.

Decriminalization of marijuana will open a door that can't be shut once opened and most assuredly will pave the way for recreational usage. Surely Hawai'i deserves better than that!

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our concerns.

ⁱ <http://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/hawaii-youth-vape-more-national-average> (January 29, 2019)

ⁱⁱ <http://www.king5.com/story/news/local/2015/02/12/washington-student-marijuana-infractions/23288183/> (King TV, February 2015)

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana> (National Institute of Drug Abuse revised January 2014)

^{iv} Rocky Mountain HIDTA. (2018, September). The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, Vol. 5, Update. Retrieved September 14, 2018, from <https://rmhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-Volume5UPDATE2018.pdf>

^v Ewing et al., 2014; Kuntsche & Kuendig, 2006; Latendresse et al., 2008; Stone et al., 2012



HB 1383, RELATING TO MARIJUANA

FEBRUARY 4, 2019 · HOUSE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. CHRIS LEE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports HB 1383, relating to marijuana, which decriminalizes certain offenses relating to marijuana and establishes a schedule of monetary fines for violations; changes statutory references from "marijuana" to "cannabis"; provides for the dismissal of charges and expungement of criminal records based solely on cannabis offenses; and establishes the cannabis evaluation working group.

It is high time that Hawai'i stopped criminalizing people for smoking small amounts of a plant. While marijuana remains illegal under federal law, where it is classified as a Schedule I substance, the facts about cannabis consumption are clear. To begin, marijuana has a lower organic toxicity and addictive risk than alcohol, along with fewer correlating incidents of influence-related accidents and violence. More than half of all traffic fatalities in Hawai'i involve alcohol, yet no one seriously discusses the possibility of prohibition because of path dependence. In other words, alcohol is ingrained in our culture in a way that marijuana consumption is not, despite the former being more dangerous, statistically speaking, than the latter.

Similarly, marijuana abuse and dependence afflicts approximately 1.7 percent of the U.S. population, while alcohol abuse afflicts roughly 7.5 percent—over four times as many individuals. Marijuana is also not conclusively linked to an increase in violent behavior. Rather, reports supposedly linking marijuana to violent crimes typically rely on information gathered by the Office

of National Drug Control Policy, which, in turn, relies on source material that a) does not account for drug-trafficking and dispositional or psychological disorders; and b) fails to account for levels of deviancy (increased usage beyond average consumption rates). A more stark statistical correlation exists between increased alcohol consumption and violent crime, including child and intimate partner abuse, yet, again, no one is introducing, much less considering the merits of, limiting the personal consumption of alcohol.

Additionally, only 30 percent of frequent (every other day or more) cannabis users report symptoms suggesting dependence, in contrast to nearly 70 percent for nicotine and 88 percent for harder drugs, like cocaine, calling into question legal opinions asserting that marijuana and hard drugs can be readily correlated to one another. If we do not criminalize overconsumption of the more dangerous drug of alcohol, in and of itself, why, once more, do we unduly criminalize cannabis consumption, particularly in small amounts?

Furthermore, decriminalizing marijuana possession is an issue of restorative justice. As the visitor industry reaps record profits and supports expansion of the local prison-industrial complex, people of Native Hawaiian ancestry, who comprise approximately 25 percent of the state's population, suffer the pangs of a biased criminal (in)justice system. Approximately 39 percent of incarcerated detainees are Hawaiian, according to a comprehensive study by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, with the proportionality gap being even greater for Hawaiian women, who comprise 19.8 percent of the state's female population, but 44 percent of the state's female inmate population. Researchers also found that, on average, Hawaiians receive longer sentences, more parole revocations, and, importantly for this measure, harsher drug-related punishments than other ethnic groups, including for marijuana possession. Therefore, passage this measure is a step toward reforming and preventing more people from becoming victims of our unjust and racially coded prison system.

We would prefer that marijuana be legalized, which would generate an estimated \$70-\$100 million in tax revenue annually for our state, even when excluding criminal justice savings, which could be spent delivering a quality education to our keiki, building basic infrastructure, expanding access to healthcare, constructing truly affordable housing, and more. That said, we support recreational decriminalization as a fine first step toward the ultimate goal of legalization.

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Nikos Leverenz <nleverenz@hhrc.org>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:27 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Rep. Chris Lee; Rep. Joy San Buenaventura
Subject: HB 1383 -- SUPPORT



Rep. Lee, Rep. San Buenaventura, & Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHRC), I am writing in strong support of HB 1383, which would eliminate criminal penalties for various cannabis possession offenses and replace them with monetary fines for violations.

HHRC strongly believes that those who use substances not be subject to criminal sanctions absent actual harm to others, including those who use substances as a consequence of underlying mental health conditions.

In short, behavioral health issues are best dealt with by employing a therapeutic model and not a criminal justice framework. Subjecting those who are struggling with substance use, with or without a co-occurring mental health condition, to criminal sanctions – including probation and parole -- exacerbates harms to those persons, their families, and our larger community.

Criminalizing drug users significantly perpetuates and compounds social, medical, and legal stigma. Dehumanizing drug users and those who have substance use problems with the coercive force of law increases the negative impacts of their use upon themselves and those around them.

With cannabis, the case for decriminalization is strengthened by the underlying reality that it is safer than two widely used licit substances, alcohol and tobacco, in terms of the levels of injury, illness, and death associated with its use. As our medical cannabis laws recognize, cannabis serves to ameliorate the impacts of a variety of condition, including chronic pain.

Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center serves Hawai'i communities by reducing the harm and fighting the stigma of HIV, hepatitis, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, and poverty in our community. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities. We foster health, wellness, and systemic change in Hawai'i and the Pacific through care services, advocacy, training, prevention, education, and capacity building.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this important reform measure.

Sincerely,

Nikos Leverenz

He/Him/His

Grants & Development Manager



Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center

677 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste. 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 521-2437 ext. 250

Fax: (808) 521-1279

Email: nleverenz@hhrc.org

Website: www.hhrc.org

Follow us on social media @hawaiihealthandharmreduction!   

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LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:54:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Drug Policy Action Group	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:18:45 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne-Marie Y Coloma	UTurn for Christ Kauai	Oppose	No

Comments:

Uturn for Christ Kauai is a Christian discipleship program for men coming off of alcohol and addictions. We are teaching them to live sober, reconcile them to their families and assist them to become contributing members of society. Alcohol and marijuana are by far, the two most difficult drugs to become overcome as it is the most readily available. Most of us believe that meth or opiates are the hardest but once the person detoxes from those drugs it is easier to avoid as it is illegal and can only be accessed by illegal measures. If Hawaii, legalizes marijuana as a recreational drug then there will be an increase in people who remain in their addictive state. The majority of people who become addictive to stronger and more dangerous drugs begin with alcohol and marijuana. It is hard enough as it is to minister and teach these men how to remain sober. If Hawaii follows the trend of legalizing marijuana, it will add one more layer of resistance for people to live a totally free and sober life. If Hawaii truly desires to eradicate addictions and drug use then they need to start by making it harder for people to get access to recreational marijuana.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 6:02:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Moaniaalaanuhea Tamashiro	Inspire Church Waikele	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Not for legalizing marijuana...if it gets legalized it gives everyone the right to get high...when they have cbd oil and pills which is better and doesnt get you high. CBD is best.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:01:42 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ALAN LEIGH	Calvary Chapel Wahiawa	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against legalizing marijuana and I do not think it should be done by decriminalizing it. There should be another bill that will deal with people who have been incarcerated for its use. This is a slippery slope you are taking without really understanding or considering the consequences of your actions. Do not do something that will have a great negative affect on this state. THERE must be somebody in this House that understands the damage that marijuana does to the people who habitally use it and even those who recreationally engage in its use. Please reconsider your actions and truly study what it does before allowing another added human cost in trouble and harm to the state of Hawaii.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:41:13 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaipoleimanu Diaz	One Love Ministry	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to oppose this bill because there is no logical reasoning to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Studies have shown in other states that the use of recreational marijuana had high rates of crime, theft, loss of jobs, homelessness and the list goes on. Hawaii is already suffering from high rates of homelessness why would we want to contribute to increasing these numbers,

Thank you!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:21:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ana	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Ana BarrientosPerez

858 6th ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

February 03, 2019

Respectable, Mr. Bertrand Kobayashi

House District 19

Hawaii State Capitol Room 403

Manifesting my opposition to HB 1383

Dear Representative, Mr. Kobayashi,

I am writing this letter to oppose the HR Bill 1383 that to heard committed on Judiciary tomorrow Monday, February 4th, 2019. I am a resident of Kaimuki, and have resided for the past 15 years. I also want my children to enjoy the beautiful environment of our locality that I am presently enjoying. It is very ill-advised to address hurriedly an immediate need without thinking about the long-range consequences thereof that the passing of this bill will bring to your constituents, specially the young generation. Should we always put the individual safety ahead of the irrational introduction such as HR 1383,

hope you can vote against it "no". This bill will bring more homelessness, irrational thinking, sex assaults, robbery hope that we will realize the importance of our natural family unity and the values that bring to the Hawaiians. You have always supported the local Government, and now, it needs your help again. Kindly vote against the HR Bill 1383.

Sincerely,

Ana BarrientoPerez

(808) 206-5061

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:33:53 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Grace	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee,

I strongly OPPOSE HB1383 for many reasons. First, Federal law is unchanged. Why make Hawaii residents and visitors think we can decriminalize pot?

This is bad policy that will ultimately harm Hawaii's families and keiki.

Our keiki, youth and teens are already struggling with easy access and being pressured and bombarded with e-cigarettes and vaping - having better opportunity to them to get stoned is very concerning.

The THC content in marijuana is more potent than that in the past. Colorado health department released a 2018 report that driving accidents have increased since legalizing pot.

This is such a sad comentary for our unrivaled land of aloha. Let's please start enacting laws that really help our residents and not put them in unhealthy and dangerous situations.

Please kill this bill - not our kiddos that could really be harmed by such crazy legislation.

Mahalo,
Janet Grace

Aina Haina , District 18

Testimony on HB1383, Relating to Marijuana

Before the House Judiciary Committee

Monday, February 4, 2019

2:05 p.m., Conference Room 325

Chair Lee and Vice Chair San Buenaventura:

My name is Donna Van Osdol, and I am a resident from Mililani. I am submitting strong testimony opposing this bill for reasons stated below.

This bill has been referred to only one committee, the Judiciary, and in the new part being created for Cannabis Violations, the bill does not have any monetary offenses included making the bill incomplete. The people of Hawaii should know exactly how much the penalties will be, especially when the offense is at the commercial level of growing, producing, distributing, and selling cannabis. Without those amounts listed in HB1383, how will we know the fines will justify the offense?

More importantly, I strongly believe that criminals who grow, produce, distribute, and sell high quantities of cannabis (25 pounds or more at least) should also be punished with prison sentences. Without prison terms, we are sending a clear message to drug cartels that it is okay to grow, produce, distribute, and sell large quantities of cannabis because these monetary fines are simply a slap on the wrist.

Regarding a new section 712: While I understand our law enforcement agencies may be overwhelmed dealing with cannabis and drug issues, the expunging of criminal records pertaining to any cannabis offense, no matter how severe the offense, is very worrisome to me. Convicts who disobey our laws should be punished according to our statutes because these laws have been in place for decades. More importantly, the expunging of records could possibly add more work to our already overburdened court system.

I am, therefore, requesting the following for HB1383:

- (1) This bill should be held in committee until the monetary offenses are included;
- (2) New section 712: expunging of records not be allowed for those with serious offenses;
- (3) This bill get a referral to the Finance committee as well since monies are involved.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify against HB1383.

February 3, 2019

House Judiciary Committee

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

Rep. Tom Brower

Pres. Nicole Lowen

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Richard Cregan

Rep. Angus McKelvey

Rep. Calvin Say

Rep. Ryan Yamane

Regarding: HB 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Please note that I do not support the passing of this bill.

We already have a law in place regarding the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, was that to be used as a stepping stone to legalizing recreational marijuana?

Aren't there other numerous issues facing our state and the people of Hawaii that should be addressed, a priority? So why the rush to push through a bill to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes? and why only one committee and only one hearing?

Could the real reason be as reflected in Civil Beat "... former state Sen. Will Espero testified that "the time is right to pass this bill. What's of most concern is our need for revenues. Then, maybe we don't need to raise our income taxes, our property taxes or our general excise tax.

Tax department indicates that it does not have the expertise to regulate marijuana establishments and asked that lawmakers clarify how marijuana retailers would be taxed.

The Department of Transportation opposes this bill as does the office of the Attorney General. I hear that the Police Department also has concerns.

I find these all red flags and think it would be irresponsible to move any further on this bill until such time as a comprehensive study has been completed and released to the public.

Again, I say stop this now, this bill needs to be deferred.

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura
Mililani, HI

TESTIMONY to the HOUSE COMMITTEE on JUDICIARY

HB 1383 RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Monday, February 4, 2019 2:05 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 325

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by: Mary Smart, Captain (USN, Ret), Mililani, HI

Chairman Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

1. OPPOSE HB1383.
2. The legislative body findings listed in part 1 of this bill are erroneous. There is absolutely **NO VALUE** to the State in decriminalizing marijuana/cannabis. In fact, decriminalization of this addictive product would be extremely harmful to residents and will have long term negative repercussions. Many individuals, including young people are already addicted and in treatment facilities. The THC content has increased from decades ago. Treatment is costly and not always successful. People need to be readmitted on multiple occasions. Although users may deny it, marijuana/cannabis has been the gateway drug to even more harmful narcotics that have damaged their lives and in many instances killed them. Marijuana/cannabis use has been linked to [domestic violence](#). We don't need more of that in our state. It has been proven that long term/excessive use of marijuana/cannabis [reduces a person's IQ](#) by about 8 points and reduces a youth's [emotional intelligence](#), increases impulsivity and will decrease the possibility of future earnings. We don't need to promote this activity which will ultimately add to the number of residents living below the poverty line, which this bill would likely do. Our students' academic achievement has already been lowered when compared to other states and other nations. We don't need to accelerate the decline which this bill would surely precipitate. Marijuana use in other states has led to increase traffic accidents and death. Statistics also show that the unemployed are more likely to use these products than those with a job – thus reducing their employability in the future and possibly be a drain on the Hawaii taxpayer. Some people argue that alcohol has detrimental side effects; however, [alcohol if used wisely, can have some beneficial effects](#). Alcohol used in moderation does not dull the mind and “give a high” – but the purpose of recreational marijuana/cannabis is to achieve a state of euphoria, a high feeling which leads to reckless and sometimes violent activity. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse under the heading Advancing Addiction Science, “Instead of relaxation and euphoria, some [marijuana/cannabis users experience anxiety, fear, distrust or panic](#)”. The same article states that depending on the potency and the person's experience, marijuana/cannabis users may have

- “hallucinations, delusions, and loss of the sense of personal identity. These unpleasant but temporary reactions are distinct from longer-lasting psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia, that may be associated with the use of marijuana in vulnerable individuals”.
3. Hawaii and others have decided to ignore federal law and allow medical marijuana and other states have legalized certain amounts of “recreational marijuana/cannabis”. That doesn’t make it right. It shows a blatant disregard for the law and sets a poor example for residents. If the state can flaunt the laws of this nation, it is only right that the people can do the same – but we know that leads to chaos and shouldn’t be allowed. Hawaii doesn’t have to be a “copy-cat” of states that have made bad decisions. Perhaps Hawaii legislators should live up to our state motto and establish “righteous” laws. There will most likely be incidents of residents, oblivious to the fact that marijuana/cannabis is illegal in some states, will find themselves convicted of a crime for having “imported” an unlawful product to a state that upholds federal law.
 4. The limited availability of resources to combat substance abuse or enforce laws is no excuse not to uphold the law. If you wanted, you could make it profitable without having to create the overhead of licensing fees/audits of taxation/regulations (page 24 of the bill) or negatively impacting the health and safety of our youth, endangering people driving on the road, and workers on the job. Many people are injured on the job due to incapacity due to drug usage which leads to excessive disability claims which will be costly to the state and employers. Some companies, such as the airlines, have significant difficulty finding new employees in our state because job seekers can’t pass the drug test. No one would want their aircraft maintained by someone impaired by a mind-altering substance.
 5. I served for 30 years in the United States Navy. One tour of duty was as Executive Officer at Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity located on Pearl Harbor Naval Station, where we did critical repairs to ships to ensure the vessels were ready to deploy. Our sailors used heavy and dangerous equipment. It was and should be a requirement for employees to remain drug free or they could endanger their own lives and the lives of their shipmates. There was an active tracking and enforcement program to minimize that danger by random testing all members of the command. By enforcing this practical restriction, we minimized safety and injuries and met deadlines so ships could meet their operational schedule. If you care about the safety of your residents and their neighbors, you won’t consider passing HB 1383.
 6. Rather than decriminalize marijuana/cannabis, it would be much simpler and better for our tax base, to fine abusers of the law and keep increasing the fines if the person is a repeat offender. Those who have sufficient funds to purchase drugs shouldn’t be surprised to have to pay a fine for breaking the law. The fines

would pay for the personnel assets required to enforce the current laws. This would be simpler and more beneficial to the community.

7. Do not establish a Cannabis working group. Stop wasting our limited resources. Save our taxes for something important. We don't want to extend the use of marijuana/cannabis beyond medical marijuana. I have noticed that most of the working groups established fail to resolve the problems for which they were established. Our local problems never get resolved but we spend a lot of funds "studying" issues.
8. Absolutely do not dismiss or expunge criminal acts that are committed. This is **UNFAIR** to people who commit other crimes and are held accountable. A criminal act is a criminal act. Those who break the law should be prosecuted and their record should reflect violations in accordance to the law at the time of the offense. The punishment doesn't have to be incarceration. A hefty fine could be a deterrent and increase state revenue. It is the violators who should pay for the added burden of enforcement, not the average, hard-working taxpayer.
9. The problem of secondary smoke is an issue for marijuana/cannabis. Many find the sweet smell of those products nauseating. Children and adults need to be protected from it. However, the most dangerous to children is when marijuana/cannabis is put in food products such as brownies, cookies, cake – things that appear safe but are particularly tempting to children. In some of the states when marijuana/cannabis has been legalized, [children brought marijuana/cannabis laced food products to school](#) and shared it with their classmates. Marijuana/cannabis in food products are slower to show their effects and therefore the individual may be unaware of the presence of the drug until that have consumed a large volume of the drug. These "treats" could be injurious to many members of the student body.
10. One bill being considered this session is a bill banning flavored vape products – supposedly to protect children even though it is already illegal for anyone under 21 to use vape/e-cig products (HB 276). Since we know teens vape – it is also known that they like not only flavors, they also use [marijuana/cannabis with vaping devices](#). Just think how easy they will be able to get their hands on some marijuana/cannabis if the legislature decriminalizes limited amounts for "recreation".
11. Do not pass HB1383. **Vote NO**. The potential for damage/harm is too great if this bill is passed.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 3:22:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 5:59:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angus Raff-Tierney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

I SUPPORT this bill with ammendments. HB 1383 would remove any criminal penalties for possession or use of marijuana and replace them with fines. Marijuana is scientifically recognised as far safer than alcohol. There is absolutelty no excuse for why you would still charge people who chose to use marijuana as criminal. While this bill is a step in the right direction, there is no reason to fine people just for having a harmless plant. Please remove all fines from this bill and change it to full legalisation of marijuana for adults over 21 years.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 5:32:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Bishop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill based on merits of establishing a nondefined working group to evaluate what amounts to recreational marijuana use being established in Hawaii. Who will participate in the group and what are the tasks they are required to report on? Is this a purely economic driven committee or will public health and safety also be a priority?

Once any decriminalization is acheived, the public use will in essence be increased due to no fear of prosecution. States that have passed recreational laws have struggled to find appropriate ways to determine impairment levels with recreational use. This loop hole in the law could potentially allow our public servants and medical providers to use marijuana very close to their times of duty. I personally would not like the chance of the firefighters, police officers, and medical professionals to be impaired when I might need them the most!

This bill is not sufficient to cover the public health needs of the citizens of Hawaii!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 5:42:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clint Chinen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Comittee on Judiciary

Subject: HB 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Clint Chinen, and I am a concerned citizen, resident of Hawaii, and registered voter in Waipahu, District #38. I am testifying in OPPOSITION of House Bill 1383!

This bill will degrade the minds, morality, and ultimately forward momentum of our great state of Hawaii. I have been youth pastor for 15 plus years, and currently serve as a location pastor of Inspire Church in Mililani. In my 20 years of ministry I have firsthand seen the destruction and degradation of the use and abuse of Marijuana. Friends, neighbors, family members, and even youth in the schools and cities that I served (Mililani, Wahiawa, Waialua, Haleiwa, Ewa, Kapolei, Nanakuli, Waipahu, Waianae, Kunia, Pearl City, Waipio, Moanalua, Honolulu, Kaneohe, and even all the way out to Hawaii Kai. Marijuana has always been a gateway drug that has influenced and impacted not just teens, but adults as well. This is a cultural and generational problem that is affecting personal convictions, cognition, and character that end up derailing a persons potential and purpose to add value to our world.

Marijuana is as dangerous as any other substance that becomes addictive in nature. I forsee this escalating negaitve issues in our society that will only hinder the betterment and advancement of Hawaii's present and future.

A better Hawaii is a where the people of Hawaii choose a better way! Don't sacrifice the potential of our great people by opening this door of compromise that will lessen the purity, minidfulness, character, and dignity of the people of Hawaii. Let's be better, let's do better!

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8 New International Version

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in STRONG OPPOSITION on this matter of great importance to our present and future generation in our great state of Hawaii!!

"Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono"

"THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!"

SINCERELY,

CLINT CHINEN

(808) 387-0271 / CLINT.CHINEN@GMAIL.COM

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 5:53:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garett Mizunaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 6:54:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SUSAN P HUGHES	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

My son developed **schizophrenia** at Keaau HS on the Big Island his senior year. He was sold marijuana there and developed the habit...until he lost his soul and mind. From there he's been arrested, put in jail, spent numerous years in Kaneohe and countless group homes. We'll never find out who the culprits were ~ but are left with the remains of a once beautiful, smart and talented son.

Please do everything you can to keep this drug an illegal possession unless prescribed by a doctor.

THanking you in advance.

Susan Hughes

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:43:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
arielle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:50:19 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Mobley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill jeopardizes the safety and welfare of everyone, especially our children. Statistics from other states, who adopted this policy, tell the hard facts...crime, poor education, innocent deaths, wasted taxpayer dollars, and much more.

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Susan Okamura and I am a concerned citizen and registered voter in District 37.

I am submitting written testimony in **opposition of H.B. 1383**.

I believe this bill will result in an increase in crime, accidents caused by people driving under the influence and a greater number of teens and children becoming exposed and addicted to drugs. It does not make sense to pass such a law.

I am in strong **opposition of H.B. 1383**, as it will hurt the future of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

Susan Okamura
95-749 Lauaki St.
Mililani, HI 96789
808-625-5726

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:23:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Feb 2, 2019

My name is Michele Monica Pichay and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of HB1383. This bill will only increase the drug addiction and homelessness problem on this island. It could destroy this island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Thank you.

Michele Pichay, RN,BSN, Realtor

(808)221-9715

Email : mloganrn@yahoo.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:32:55 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Shinagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

My name is Faith Shinagawa and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in OPPOSITION of H.B 1383.

This bill consists of too many issues. This bill will affect and perhaps destroy lives. I understand that our prisons are crowded, and if convicted Marijuana offenders are freed, and no record to follow them, it may alleviate some problems of the state's overcrowded prisons. However, with the diverse population of convicts, some may have addictions, addictions with mental disorders or the just want to make money the "easy way", etc. How will releasing them help us in Hawaii? Hawaii should be a safe environment for all people. Employers(should know their employees past out of fairness to their business and the community), schools with children, the elderly, and others may be harmed by unchanged attitudes and habits. What about the offenders who did their time, are their records and lives going be restored?

Also, the name Marijuana should not be changed as it confuses the public and out of fairness to your voter, community members, and stakeholders, one issue should be taken at a time.

Finally, this bill is too vague, there needs to be more specifics, for example, "monetary fines for violation" are we talking about \$50 or \$5000 for damages the person caused a victim and their families? "Solely on cannabis(has it been changed already?) offenses" Are we talking about possession, selling to children, growing and manufacturing it, and etc? More work needs to be done on this bill and more public input.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Faith Shinagawa

Faith4463@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:33:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dane Muramoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Dane Muramoto. I am a registered voter in State House District 18. I oppose HB1383, regarding the decriminalization for possession of marijuana, on the basis that states which have legalized marijuana have seen an uptick in crimes and vehicular accidents.

Although I openly oppose any measure that moves in a direction toward legalization of marijuana, I do see some ways to compromise.

The Legislature should send the bill back to committee to consider higher than standard punishments for use of vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards, etc, while high on marijuana. There should be a legal standard that allows police to test for this, without it becoming a civil rights issue.

All said, I would prefer a stop to the path of legalization. Besides, it's still federally illegal.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:28:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shawn Bauer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am Shawn Bauer, a concerned citizen in opposition to H.B. 1383. I have seen the effects of recreational use of marijuana as a gateway drug. With the destructive effects of addiction affecting my own family and many other families, I urge lawmakers to reconsider this law. Our youth have so many temptations to be wary of, making recreational marijuana legal, will only add to addictions and the lifestyle that accompanies addictions. For the sake of our youth, our families and people who would be vulnerable towards addictions, please do not pass H.B. 1383.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:32:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allan Matsukado	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB 1383

Hearing on February 4, 2019 at 2:05 p.m.

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I, Allan Matsukado, am a registered voter, and concerned citizen, residing in District 4 (Aiea). I appreciate this opportunity to write in opposition of HB1383. I'm sure you have researched the pros and cons to the legalization of marijuana. However, I would urge you to consider the social impact that decriminalizing marijuana can have. If you do a case study on states that have already legalized marijuana, you can see the negative impacts that decision has yielded. Both minor and violent crime rates have increased as have minor, major and fatal car crashes. It has also negatively impacted the youth in these marijuana legal states, with an increase in suspensions for high school students.

There is also fiscal impact as well. While one of your goals may be to increase revenue through legalization, there is the opposing argument where the states with legalized marijuana has shown a significant increase in marijuana related ER visits. And when you tie that together with the runaway cost of healthcare, isn't the goal to decrease ER visits, which would thus, cut healthcare cost and improve the overall budget bottom line?

I truly thank you for your service to our state and communities. I will be following the bill closely and am hopeful you will join me in opposition to HB1383.

Sincerely,

Allan Matsukado

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:41:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Caoagdan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Chris Caoagdan, **and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.** This bill will increase crime and endanger our communities throughout the State. From looking at data from states that have passed recreational marijuana (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.), there has been a significant rise of marijuana usage in minors (aged 12-17). In addition, legalizing recreational marijuana may cause our youth to be suspended from school more often than now, and may also increase student suicide rates.

In some of these other states, there has been an increase of marijuana related ER visits, which increased medical costs tremendously. There also has been an increase of car accidents, including fatalities, in states like Colorado and Washington due to marijuana use. Crime rates had also increased in these states. In Colorado, crime rates have increased by about 11 times faster than the rest of the country which includes property and violent crimes. Also, in both Colorado and Oregon, there has been a 50% increase of illegal growing operations and seizures for marijuana.

There is a lot more that I can mention, but to put it all into perspective, legalizing recreational marijuana will NOT benefit our State in the long run. It will encourage more crime in our communities, endanger the lives of others, and have a negative impact to our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance.

Chris Caoagdan

mohsrocks7@gmail.com

(808) 489-2571

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:42:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Gutierrez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2018

My name is Frank Gutierrez, and I am testifying as a concerned citizen in total opposition of H.B. 1383.

This bill will be a disaster to our Hawaiian Ohana. Growing up and experiencing the harmful effects of marijuana in and after college I was a very unmotivated individual. I had no desire to function as a contributing member of society. It wasn't until I kicked the habit did I change my life. I served on the Los Angeles Fire Department as a firefighter for 31 years. I was fortunate to see the damage it was doing to me and my life changed. The young people of today have enough distractions with technology, low job opportunities and lack of discipline. I believe this would be detrimental to their lives and access would welcome many more younger people (children) to keep them from reaching their full potential. Recent history in other states show a higher drop out rate, increase in traffic accidents (impaired driving) and more homelessness.

We have enough problems with alcohol use among our young people, please stop this bill now!

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony,

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Gutierrez

310-462-9031

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 11:29:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryn Villers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee,

Vice Chair San Buenaventura,

Honorable Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1383.

My opposition is for a variety of reasons, and the hasty near-decriminalization is only one of them. First and foremost is that the public has been given, functionally, no time to prepare to respond—testimony was due by 2pm on Super Bowl Sunday.

I am old enough to remember when the medical legalization of marijuana was passed through and the discussion was the same as it always is, “Don’t worry, we don’t want to legalize/decriminalize marijuana, we just want it to be available for those who would benefit from the medicinal effects, and on.”

If the facts, evidence, and science are on the side of the position of approval, bring the issue before the public. Let’s have the debate. Allow the public to vote on it as a ballot measure even.

Regarding the bill itself, it begins by stating that the resources of the State are insufficient to simultaneously deal with the policing of marijuana and all the other drugs. Why are they insufficient? Where has the money gone? Is it being spent on something more important? Instead of being more judicious about where money is spent the State will now look for money by legalizing a drug, with the possible intent of capitalizing on the production and exportation of it. This will make the State a legalized drug dealer.

Just because some other states have done it does not make it the correct decision. Have those other states seen positive impacts to outweigh the negative repercussions? Has legalization turned around the lives of so many young people who would have otherwise ended up in prisons?

If the use of marijuana is upon equal standing with the use of alcohol or tobacco, then the law should be defined as such. If the use and distribution of marijuana is detrimental to the community then it should be criminal. By making the use and distribution punishable only by monetary fines (which will still require police, lawyers, and courts—the very resources claimed to be at a premium) you have turned the drug into nothing but a money making enterprise for the State. In other words, the legislature is saying that the use/distribution of marijuana is neither positive nor negative—but if you want to use/distribute, you need to pay us money.

Decoupling marijuana from the phrase “harmful drug” has no basis in science. Marijuana is a drug. It is detrimental to adolescent brain development.

Has anyone analyzed the potential cost to the State of the further increase in the homeless population that is likely to occur with the legalization/decriminalization of marijuana? Has anyone considered the effects on tourism from Japan, where marijuana is highly illegal?

For such a large and meaningful issue as the legalization/decriminalization of marijuana in Hawai'i, the vote should come before the people. The voice of the people should be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha 'oe

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:23:01 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deseret Nau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: HB 1383; Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

Aloha Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 1383. Marijuana is a harmful recreational drug and the affects will destroy and cause havoc to our community. Those who benefit are those who partake of the drug for a high and lawmakers/companies who aim for another means to put money in their pockets. As a resident of Hawai'i all my life, I oppose HB 1383.

In recent years Colorado has legalized marijuana. Teens using marijuana in Colorado are ranked number one in our nation after having legalized the use of it. Due to this drug violoation and suspensions for drugs have increased. An increase in fatal car crashes have resulted with the cause being that of marijuana use. The growth rate of homelessness has increased and the crime and as well as the negative effects mental health of partakers of such a practice has also increased.

These facts, help us to visualize the damaging affects that legalization of marijana will cause to our community and home. I am an eye witness of examples well noted within our own communities of the troubles caused when marijuana is used for recreation; stealing, parents who use the substance not taking care of their children and families, abuse, violence and homelessness. There is no good reason why such a practice should be legalized. In fact, we should run as fast as we can in the opposite direction and steer far away from such ideas and thoughts. The passing of such a bill will certainly destroy and cause havoc and change for the worst the Hawaii that we know. For the people of Hawaii and especially for our keiki, I speak loud and clear please do not legalize the practice of recreational marijuana use.

Bottom line: DO NOT PASS HB 1383. I am in strong opposition to HB 1383.

Deseret Nau

Mililani, Oahu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:25:27 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isi Nau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: HB 1383; Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

Aloha Committee members. Thank you for your service. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my concerns. I oppose HB 1383.

There is an abundance of statistics and data supporting both sides of the issue of legalizing recreational marijuana use. I agree without reservation that marijuana use is harmful to the participant and society.

With all statistics and opinions aside, my question is why? Do we need to legalize marijuana? What social ill would it solve or injustice would it correct? How would it improve education, infrastructure, or neighborhoods? There are a myriad of social issues we must address and recreational marijuana is clearly not one of them.

Legalization would merely benefit those who partake. Others could potentially benefit through increased State revenue, but this idea is repulsive! We should not allow the State to benefit financially from a harmful practice. There are far better ways to improve the financial health of the State.

I close with a reiteration of the question, why legalize? For money? For improved recreation? These are short cited and insignificant in comparison to the reasons why not to legalize.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong opposition to HB 1383.

Isi Nau

Mililani, Oahu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:13:16 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Crystal Goo, a very concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

As an secondary educator in the community I reside, I've seen the negative effects of recreational marijuana first hand. Nothing good comes from it, nothing. As a result of smoking marijuana for recreation I've seen my students who use it lose focus and motivation for academics and drop out of school. I've seen students stealing from other students so they can have money to buy marijuana. I've seen families broken leaving children abandoned. I've had students who became homeless as a result of parents using marijuana. It was so difficult for them to focus on learning math when they were struggling just to survive.

I am a mother of 5 young children. I am their advocate. I want them to grow up in a safe Hawai'i and know that their future will be brightest if the use of recreational marijuana remains illegal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition of H.B. 1383.

Crystal Goo

Waipahu, HI

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:36:15 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elwin Ahu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have lived in our precious state for over 60 years and am concerned about a bill that would de-criminalize, and therefore legalize, the recreational use of marijuana in our State. I am also a former Circuit Court Judge of our state's judiciary and witnessed, first hand, the negative impact the use of marijuana has made on families and our community and, therefore, stand in opposition to legislation relating to HB1383. Statistics gathered from other states that have legalized its use gives us cause to be alarmed. It has been proven that marijuana use is a contributing cause of personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues, as it has been shown from clinical studies performed in other states and Washington D.C. Society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. In other jurisdictions, there has been a significant rise in marijuana use among teens 12-17 years old and has increased school suspensions and student suicides in those states. Crime rate has also increased 11 times faster since its legalization, including property and violent crimes. Drug induced drivers caused by marijuana use has caused fatal auto crashes to increase by 88% according to the NHTSA. For these reasons, and many more, I am urging you to oppose this bill, and any other bills that would legalize marijuana use in Hawaii. The income generated for state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product would be clearly off-set and negated by the increase in social welfare, medical, additional law enforcement, judicial costs, for example, and is not worth the risk to the rest of our community, and so, I am strongly opposed to this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:48:52 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Tanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Celeste Tanabe and I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

I am a local resident born and raised on Oahu and am very concerned about the future of Hawaii if the HB 1383 bill passes. I am a mother a 5 young children and am very concerned for their future. A few weeks ago, my elementary school aged children brought home a notice regarding the illegal use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes at school. I was very surprised to receive such a notice from our ELEMENTARY school aged children making it very aware to me that is a big enough problem in Hawaii that even our little children ages 5-10 are bringing home such a notice.

Our elementary school is located right next to the high school in our community and each day after school, I see high school students smoking. With the legalization of marijuana and the easier access it will be for children to get it, I can only imagine the same letter coming to me from school officials one day reminding us that marijuana is illegal for children. It is very sad to think that this will most likely be our future if this bill is passed. Children will not only be using cigarettes and e-cigs but also marijuana, a very harmful drug. All the extra funding from the legalization of it down to the law enforcers being able to focus on "other" issues is not worth it if it affects the future of the children of Hawaii. Please, please reconsider the passing of this bill.

Mahalo,

Celeste Tanabe

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:16:33 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shawn Reasoner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana. I lived with people who smoked marijuana and the effects were dramatic. Many of the long term and short term affects noted here have become normal in their lives. Please vote against this bill.

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

- Short-term memory problems
- Severe anxiety, including fear that one is being watched or followed (paranoia)
- Very strange behavior, seeing, hearing or smelling things that aren't there, not being able to tell imagination from reality (psychosis)
- Panic
- Hallucinations
- Loss of sense of personal identity
- Lowered reaction time
- Increased heart rate (risk of heart attack)
- Increased risk of stroke
- Problems with coordination (impairing safe driving or playing sports)
- Sexual problems (for males)
- Up to seven times more likely to contract sexually transmitted infections than non-users (for females) [22,32 & 33](#)

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- Decline in IQ (up to 8 points if prolonged use started in adolescent age)
- Poor school performance and higher chance of dropping out
- Impaired thinking and ability to learn and perform complex tasks
- Lower life satisfaction
- Addiction (about 9% of adults and 17% of people who started smoking as teens)
- Potential development of opiate abuse
- Relationship problems, intimate partner violence
- Antisocial behavior including stealing money or lying
- Financial difficulties
- Increased welfare dependence
- Greater chances of being unemployed or not getting good jobs

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:29:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please vote no on this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:37:02 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alison Burkhardt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am completely opposed to this bill. I grew up in Colorado, and at first was in favor of it being legalized there, however after seeing the consequences of marijuana legalized, I am completely against having the same thing happen here in Hawaii. In Colorado, Washington, Alaska, and Oregon, there has been a significant rise in marijuana use by youth ages 12-17 according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. And, both Colorado and Oregon have seen a significant increase in annual marijuana related ER visits. Not to mention, many of my friends tell me that neighborhoods that used to be wholesome and family oriented are now tainted by the smell of marijuana that reeks from certain homes. This is simply not the environment I want for my own child.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:38:14 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Adams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We do not want this bill passed!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:38:20 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taotafa Kop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Taotafa Kop and I am a concerned citizen. I am opposed to the passing of this measure. I feel it would bring severe adverse consequences to our community and the welfare of our children being raised in our home, Hawaii. Marijuana is referred to as a gateway drug in terms of recreational use. I'm not willing to take that gamble on our community. Thank you.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:39:38 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larni Atkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to you as a private citizen, a mom, a part time teacher to elementary school aged children, and a resident of Hawaii in opposition to this marijuana bill. As a mother, I do not want my children to be exposed to a culture where drugs are easily accessible and decriminalized. My friend in California is going through a difficult hardship with her son being addicted to marijuana. Her son who is in college was a star athlete has been negatively affected by using marijuana. He has no more desire or passion to pursue his college career. As a mom, that is devastating. Marijuana is know as a gateway drug. It opens up the door to experimenting with more dangerous drugs like cocaine and meth. If legislation is passed to support even small amounts of marijuana use, this will open up the idea that using drugs, any drug, is ok. This will be detrimental and harmful especially to children, teens and young adults. Drugs and alcohol use in our community has posed dangers to our citizens and visitors. We already have had many pedestrian deaths and just recently one was due to someone driving under the influence of alcohol. All my sons went through the DARE program in elementary school which cautioned the kids about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. The officers helped them to make the right decisions to say NO to drugs and alcohol. This bill, if it becomes a law, would be a harmful and negative message to every child who has gone through this program and who will go through this program. We want our keiki to make the right decisions. Sending mixed messages to our future generation, future leaders, future business owners that drug use is ok is not what we want to do. Changing the name from marijuana to cannabis will not change the fact that this drug is still a drug. Our state motto is "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono" which means "The life of the land is perpetuated in Righteousness." As public servants, continue to do what is pono, what is right for us all in this beautiful state of Hawai'i. Please vote against this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:45:16 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dena Akiu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:49:14 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karli Miyata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:49:47 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ed Akiu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:50:21 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Yanagi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 1383 because it will create more problems than solving the drug problem. Hawaii's adults and children already have alcohol, opioid, crystal meth addictions and not enough drug treatment centers. It also goes against Federal Law. Please don't open the door to more drug abuse because once you do, you cannot go back to change the law. For the sake of all the children, adults, and seniors of Hawaii think hard before making a major decision like this. Otherwise, someday in the future the legislature may have to legalize all illegal drugs like they do in some countries.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:53:03 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gary rosolowich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

My name is Gary Rosolowich and I am testifying in opposition of HB 1383. This bill will not benefit the people of Hawaii and could cost Hawaii in many different ways. The social costs could be enormous and have not been studied enough to make this change. Mahalo.

Gary Rosolowich

gary@onelove.org

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:58:39 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia T Jones	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha! Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB1383. Please do not pass this bill. History has shown us that no good can come from recreational marijuana. Hawaii already has problems with individuals driving drunk and text driving contributing to loss and deaths on our islands, I can only imagine marijuana bringing more harm, loss, and deaths. In all honesty, it is alarming to think that our island leaders would even consider the possibility of legalizing marijuana. Please, please, please, do not pass this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:05:38 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph P. Picon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident of Waipahu and registered voter in the 37th district.

I oppose House Bill 1383.

Please don't let this bill pass, and don't allow crime rates and insurance costs in Hawaii to increase due to Marijuana related crimes as has happened in other states like Colorado, Washington, Alaska, and Oregon. Please don't allow an increased burden in our Emergency Rooms due to marijuana related ER visits.

Please keep us safe in Hawaii and vote down House Bill 1383.

Thank you.

Joseph P. Picon

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:09:55 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Yamamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Cecelia Yamamura, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will undoubtedly lead to more pedestrian fatalities related to drivers driving while under the influence. In light of the recent deaths of 3 people and 5 others being critically injured by a driver driving while under the influence of alcohol, it is unconscionable to even consider decriminalizing marijuana, another substance which is known to impair drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Cecelia Yamamura

Kaneohe, HI

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:12:57 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanine litsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for allowing my voice to be heard and to represent other asthma afflicted persons. I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to the House Bill 1383-legalizing the use of recreational marijuana. I live in a nice, clean area of town. After the legalization of use for medical purposes I notice that there was an increase of use in the area that I live. People using at the major bus stops near my residence or in the surrounding homes/apartments; their smoke blows into my home and I have to deal with those consequences that another has decided to indulge in; I'm the one that has the asthma attack, I'm the one that has to miss a day of work and jeopardize my career/my tax payer income. You put so many restrictions on smoking and e-cig but yet you want to add another facility to "destroy the air quality" and health of others.

There have been many studies that show marijuana use impairs cognitive reasoning. You as law makers are looking to change the ability to turn right on a red light to assist in protecting our streets but according to the Honolulu Police last year's traffic related deaths -most were caused by "alcohol and drugs". If you can't control drunk driving adding "high driving" is not going to make our roads safer.

Again I beg you to see the people who elect you and not the tax dollars you can make. Our lives matter. At least do an impact study first before going through with passing this law. This is about the SAFETY and HEALTH of your voters.

Mahalo,

J. Litsey

96822-resident

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:12:57 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Eichorn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:34:19 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Diaz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:35:36 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Tipton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is David Tipton, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383.

This bill will negatively effect our commuinity and will cause long term damage to individuals. I strongly suggest a more thorough impact study and the resulting effects of homelessness, ie. Colorado.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong **opposition** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

David Tipton
E: WaxOff@onelove.org
P: (808)342-8162

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:39:27 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Tipton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Cindy Tipton, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383.

This bill will negatively effect our commuinity and will cause long term damage to individuals. I strongly suggest a more thorough impact study and the resulting effects of homelessness, ie. Colorado.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong **opposition** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Cindy Tipton
E: Cindy@onelove.org
P: (808)342-6056

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:43:08 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My main objection to legalization of marijuana is the effect normalizing usage will have on young people / young adults. It has a temporary, at the least, detrimental effect on motivation, drive and work ethic. Do we really need another mind and mood altering drug made readily available?

In addition

1. I believe not enough study has been done concerning long term effects of the drug on the brain.
2. Driving under the influence of marijuana will lead to accidents.

Is any financial gain worth the cost of lives changed and lives lost? I think not.

Thank You

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:43:10 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Yamamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Mark Yamamura, MD , and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition to H.B. 1383. As a medical professional, I see the devastating effects that substances such as alcohol and marijuana can have on our ohana and to the public in general. In addition to the obvious concern of additional impaired drivers killing innocent pedestrians and other people, I am also concerned about the downstream effects of legalized marijuana contributing to the heroine and fentanyl abuse in our state. Our youth are a population at particularly high risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Mark Yamamura, MD
Kaneohe, HI

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:46:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli Mukawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Kelli Mukawa, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383.

This bill will negatively effect our commuinity and will cause long term damage to individuals. I strongly suggest a more thorough impact study and the resulting effects of homelessness, ie. Colorado.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong **opposition** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Kelli Mukawa

E: WaxAdmin@onelove.org

P: (808)391-1256

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:47:24 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sybil T Oishi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT PASS HB1383!

I believe that this bill will lead to the legalization of marijuana or cannibis, as HB1383 is choosing to call it. Please consider our future, Hawaii's future, and the future of generations to come. I am a teacher of elementary school children. We teach them the hazards of drug use and how to say "NO!" to drugs like marijuana. We teach them integrity - to do the right thing even when no one is looking.

The bottom line is marijuana/cannibis is harmful to individuals and society. We cannot in good conscience support the legalization of drugs.

Is this the legacy we are choosing to leave for our children??

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:51:21 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Yanagi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 03, 2019

My name is Sharon Yanagi and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H. B. 1383.

I am concerned that decriminalizing marijuana will make its use readily available not only to adults, but to minors as well. Data from states that have legalized marijuana has shown negative effects on minors in school, has shown an increase in accidents and death due to impaired driving, and an increase in crime.

We already have a problem locally with opioid overuse. To add overdoses from marijuana use will tax our medical facilities. The income generated from legalizing marijuana will not justify making its use legal. I am strongly opposed to HB 1383.

Sharon Yanagi

yanagisha@mail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:52:04 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather MonDee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 relating to marijuana

My name is Heather MonDee of Ewa Beach. I am a concerned and opposed citizen to this bill. The timing of it being pushed through, the lack of media attention, that it sees more taxation in our government that is already taxing beyond reasonable measure and does without transparency and accountability of the funds shows the lack of the peoples invite to knowledge.

It is shady this is pushed on Super Bowl weekend in a 24 hour window as such!

As a native from Colorado watching the legalizing of it there and now in seeing of consequences marijuana has created; an open door to other drugs increased homelessness (which Hawai'i already has issues unresolved) the shattered lives that I have spent decades (as a victims advocate) helping to put back together, I strongly urge you to stop this bill and oppose it. In the nature of your tourism, it will hinder not help and increase crime which Hawai'i also has a big problem with. Please stop this!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:52:37 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob O'Neill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a lifetime resident of Oahu, I stand strongly opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana. This could not be a more detrimental bill to our culture. Recreational drug use of any sort winds up being abused and damaging lives and society. I urge you to vote against this bill and to consider the consequences of not doing so. Your constituents are adamantly opposed to this bill.

Jacob O'Neill

Mililani, Oahu

February 3, 2019

Chairman Chris Lee
Vice-Chairman Joy San Buenaventura
House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Aloha Chairman Lee and Vice-Chairman Buenaventura:

My name is Amy Shiroma and as a concerned citizen, I am testifying in **opposition** of HB 1383.

I believe our government has done it's due diligence to assist those with the medical need for marijuana by permitting the sale and use of medical marijuana. It is NOT in the best interest of the general public to decriminalize the sale, use and distribution of marijuana for leisure use.

My strong opposition lies in the following reasons:

- **Health Risks:** Documented medical confirmation of the detrimental effects of marijuana and specifically the harmful effects of THC on brain development in young people and the brain degeneration in adults; increased risk of birth defects and at times affecting the next generation as well; increased risk of second hand smoke from marijuana resulting in health issues
- **Increased Emergency Room Demand:** Documented issues in states with legalized recreational marijuana of a taxing increase of Emergency Room visits due to the overuse of marijuana. Our hospitals are already at maximum capacity providing care for our current demand of our residents and visitors. With documented increases of ER visits in legalized states, why would we even consider this for ours? With 10 million visitors to Hawaii, do we really want to have legalized recreational use of marijuana and run the risk of our visitors becoming ill or dying because of misuse?
- **Regulations:** The challenges to regulate the recreational use of this drug will be enormous with the potential ease of use in food and beverage production as well as the use of marijuana in smoking. I cringe at the thought of our young people being able to go to a coffee shop and purchase their favorite drink with a pastry laced with marijuana.
- **How Do We Support HB 1383 and Advocate for HB 276?:** Our legislators desire to take a stand against the sale of tobacco and tobacco related products to eventually band the sale in its entirety because of the health risks to our communities. So how can we advocate for the decriminalization of marijuana that has even more health risks than tobacco? That does NOT make sense at all.

I humbly ask that we seriously reconsider this measure to decriminalize marijuana in HB 1383. The allowances for medical marijuana are enough and provide the means for those who have medical need for their treatment. We do NOT need to legalize the availability of a drug that is proven to have grave health risks to the user. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong opposition** on this matter of great importance to our present and future generations.

Sincerely,
Amy Shiroma – HD 36
95-1055 Ka'apeha Street #150
Mililani, HI 96789
Email: ashiroma87@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:01:59 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Sumabat	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana in Hawaii. Marijuana is still a drug that should not be legal for anyone. Please do not pass this bill.

February 3, 2018

To: Val Okimoto and Donovan Dela Cruz

Regarding Bill 1383

I was shocked to hear that you will be voting tomorrow to make marijuana legal by changing its name. I believe that this drug will be more accessible to the younger children who will invariably "try" and then move up to more dangerous drugs.

Many years ago when my daughter (now age 44), was at Mililani Waena elementary school, told me that she knew where one could buy pakalolo I was concerned. By passing this bill this drug will be more accessible and would create more crimes affecting everyone. People without monies to purchase this drug may steal or cause violent crimes to "feed" their habit.

I beg you to protect our youth and our older citizens from crimes that may arise from this. If people need this drug for their illness, then they can go to their doctor and get help; I don't want to see everyone having access to this drug. Cigarettes and alcohol already create problems in our society, let's not add another source.

I trusted you to protect us when you were campaigning door-to-door. Let's see you stand up for the "silent majority." If you must, put it up for vote, not leave it up to a few politicians.

Karen Shiratori
95-1025 Alaume Street
Mililani, HI 96789

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:07:33 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheri marquina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. There is no reason to spend time on legalizing marijuana use. It does NOT benefit the people of Hawaii. We already legalized medical uses for marijuana, there is no reason to legalize recreational use of a drug that impairs people's judgement. Legalizing recreational use will increase the homeless problem. Statistic show an increase in organized crime and driving accidents caused by marijuana use in the states. With the states already high number of vehicle accidents, it would be counter-productive to legalize marijuana use for recreational purposes.

Do NOT pass this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:35:09 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Lopes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

Aloha my name is Allison Lopes, healthcare worker and mother of 2 teenagers. I am an extremely concerned voting citizen. I am testifying in ABSOLUTE opposition of HB 1383.

This bill will open the flood gates for our children to be more easily exposed to gateway drugs at a time in their life when they do not have the maturity to understand the horrible impact it will have on the rest of their lives from alcholohism, to drug addiction. I see it's impact everyday in our hospitals. We cannot afford the expense it takes to manage this impact, and it will be detriment to the welfare of our young children and young adults. Statistics show the impact of the legalism of marijuana will cause +900% increase in crime and homelessness.

Thank for the oppportunity to voice my extreme concern on absolute opposition on this matter.

Allison Lopes (808) 286-2119

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:41:31 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Fred, and I am a concerned citizen. I am in opposition of HB 1383. This bill has repercussions which worry me in such a way that the benefits do not out way the risks. That just as alcohol is legal yet people still abuse it as recent as this week, taking three lives. Just as cigarettes have stolen the lives of many people, that is self evident in your own experiences. I fear that the same will occur if you past this bill. That you've have only been educated through the lens of one side of the argument. That you have not sought the reasons why this will be detrimental to our society and our children. What will happen when your no longer in office and the number of car accidents doubles, the number of homeless triples not for any other reason but directly relative to this bill. What will your legacy be not to me but your children and their children.

I submit this statement respectfully to my leaders in government.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:43:55 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rachel sample	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a child I grew up in an environment with daily pot use. It was everywhere and I could smell it when I opened my book bag at school. I saw my mother lose all of her inhibition to achieve greater things. She started smoking pot and at the age of 63 still smokes it almost daily. She lost custody of all of her kids and has not built anything useful in her life. We were robbed of a mother. It provided a terrible example to me growing up. I began smoking at age 15, and it severely hindered my ability to drive, to concentrate, and to become a useful and productive member of society. I saw many people I used to smoke with go on to harder and more severe drugs where thru eventually lost their lives. I am now a grown adult and happily married. We are expecting our 8th child and I don't want this to be a legacy we leave them and our grandchildren.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:53:23 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Landgraf	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Feb 3, 2019

Aloha. My name is Katie Landgraf and I am a concerned resident and voter of the state of Hawaii. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. The effects of the legalization of marijuana on other states, specifically on the issue of homelessness, give us true facts that the state of Hawaii should not legalize the use of marijuana. Studies completed on the state of Washington and Colorado share that homelessness increased by 19% and 9% (respectively) between 2014 – 2017 (Moore, 2018). The article continues to mention that states bordering those areas like Idaho and Wyoming also increased by 14% and 15% (respectively). How could Hawaii handle more homelessness than it already has?

Some say that tax revenues will increase from the passage of this law. That may be true, but does the combination of more money and more homeless really make sense? Large amounts of funds are allocated to organizations to help homeless individuals right now, but it continues to be a problem. Would more funds really help eliminate homelessness? It hasn't in Washington or Colorado. As many visitors have complained about their safety in the streets of Honolulu at night because of the homeless, now visitors have started complaining about their safety in the streets of Kapolei at night next to the newly build hotels.

Additionally, have the affects on the tourism industry been considered? Shouldn't Hawaii be concerned about the type of visitors that this law may attract? What about the type of visitor that this law may attract that decides he/she doesn't want to leave and then realizes the high cost of living forces them onto the streets.

I'm begging you as a mom, worker and citizen that has given back to this community in various capacities, to consider all the facts and move the opinions aside. I want Hawaii to continue to be a beautiful place to live and to visit, but I believe the passage of this law can change that in a very negative way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Katie Landgraf
andykatie@hotmail.com
808-225-8104

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:59:42 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I AM A REGISTERED VOTER IN THE 37th DISTRICT AND A CONCERNED CITIZEN AND RESIDENT OF HAWAII.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:00:06 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josefina De La Gente	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I totally oppose HB1383 as this will cause crime rate to increase.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:01:31 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Padilla	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose legalization of recreational use of marijuana and HB 1383!

Yes, Hawaii has terrible and wide spread illegal drug use. Legalizing this starter drug and thusly making it readily available to our youth will substantially increase its use and subsequently lead to even more abuse of harder drugs which in turn will create even more homeless persons in Hawaii.

Data from states that have legalized recreational marijuana use shows the negative impacts on their communities. There is a significant rise in use by youth which lead to higher student suspension rates and higher student suicides. Data also reveals significant increases in drug related ER visits and drugged driving fatalities plus dramatic increases in crime.

Marijuana use is detrimental to a person's health, motivation, judgement and physical and mental well being. We do not want more impaired drivers on our roads endangering law abiding, innocent pedestrians and commuters. As a concerned mother, I am asking you to protect us and especially our youth and vote against HB1383. Thank you!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:04:36 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Tamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I AM A REGISTERED VOTER IN THE WAIPIO DISTRICT AND A CONCERNED CITIZEN AND RESIDENT OF HAWAII. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PROPOSALS NOTED IN HOUSE BILL 1383. I SEE NO BENEFITS IN THE PASSING OF THE BILL AS EVIDENT BY THE INCREASE IN CRIME, INCREASE IN DRUG USEAGE BY MINORS AND INCREASE IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES NOTED IN STATES THAT HAVE LEGALIZED MARAJUANA USEAGE. THE NEGATIVES CLEARLY OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS THAT THIS BILL WILL INTRODUCE TO THE STATE.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:06:50 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janell Y Y Beattie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Janell Beattie and I am rallying in opposition of HB 1383. This bill will wreck havoc in our society to the young and old alike. It wrecks havoc in all aspects of life from financial, breakdown of the family, safety, health, etc. Substance abuse will be on the rise and then it leads to other more dangerous drugs in line.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my conviction which will impact the people of Hawaii for generations to come. I strongly oppose HB 1383.

Janell
Beattie
230-2081

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:08:48 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Shiroma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why I oppose this bill:

-We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC) the recreational use of marijuana and the see the negative impact it is having on their communities

-In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states

-Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)

-Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)

-Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

-Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double than the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states

-CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

Aside from considering personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C.. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana

becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:12:12 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haley Fillman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support this bill being passed. In states where marijuana has been legalized, homelessness has increased. People seeking shelter has increased by 900% at Salvation Army shelters. We already have an ENORMOUS homeless population that we should be passing bills to help reduce. But instead we are focusing on writing bills that will only make the issue worse. Please reconsider this bill as it does not reflect the values of the people of Hawaii or embody the Aloha Spirit.

Mahalo,

Haley Fillman

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:20:50 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Lagunero	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Jimmy L. Lagunero, I am a native and resident of Hawaii. I would like to request your kokua to OPPOSE HB1383.

Let's not sell out to those that are seeking profit, or believe in the false claims that the use of illegal drugs including marijuana won't harm Hawaii. There is a reason that marijuana continues to be illegal by our government and many other States.

While there are medical support on the use of this drug, there too are legal ways to acquire it for those truly in need of it as a supportive medicine.

For the same reason that we raised the minimum age to drink alcohol to 21, so too, should we maintain restrictions on the recreational use of marijuana.

This bill, if passed will further weaken the fabric of our society, I urge you not to allow that to happen. OPPOSE HB 1383, our Aina, and our Keiki, depends on you to be the protectors of all of us, please do not shirk your responsibility and to stand firm, against this measure and anything else that threatens my Ohana, your Ohana and our Aina.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your consideration,

Jimmy L. Lagunero

Resident and Native of Hawaii Nei

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:21:53 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jason farmer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Comittie on Judicary

My name is Jason Farmer, a concerned citizen.

I am writing in opposition to H.B 1383.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to this bill.

Jason Farmer

3378 Alohea Ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:23:18 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonora Caoagdan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Leonora Caoagdan, **and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.** This bill will increase crime and endanger our communities throughout the State. From looking at data from states that have passed recreational marijuana (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.), there has been a significant rise of marijuana usage in minors (aged 12-17). In addition, legalizing recreational marijuana may cause our youth to be suspended from school more often than now, and may also increase student suicide rates.

In some of these other states, there has been an increase of marijuana related ER visits, which increased medical costs tremendously. There also has been an increase of car accidents, including fatalities, in states like Colorado and Washington due to marijuana use. Crime rates had also increased in these states. In Colorado, crime rates have increased by about 11 times faster than the rest of the country which includes property and violent crimes. Also, in both Colorado and Oregon, there has been a 50% increase of illegal growing operations and seizures for marijuana.

There is a lot more that I can mention, but to put it all into perspective, legalizing recreational marijuana will NOT benefit our State in the long run. It will encourage more crime in our communities, endanger the lives of others, and have a negative impact to our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance.

Leonora Caoagdan

lcaoagdan1961@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:23:49 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Nakasuji	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because as a high school teacher I see the impact these types of choices make on our teens and our future. I feel that passing this bill contradicts the whole point of raising the legal tobacco age; it will open a can of worms with driving under the influence type accidents; I think other drug use will increase because it's such a gateway drug; and anyone previously convicted for use will have cases reopened thus creating more work for our state prosecutors.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:24:28 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Robles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1383

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:27:04 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennie Matsuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1383 because shouldn't laws protect people and not harm them? Let's protect Hawaii'a people. Think about the world our Keiki will be living in. What choices do we want to give them?

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:27:14 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cayla Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to testify against HB1383. I don't believe that the legalization of marijuana would be a good decision for the health and wellbeing of the people of Hawaii. We're such a small island with connections to both the land and each other. I am a college student and I don't believe in any use of marijuana. It scares me to think that I could be subject to accidents from drivers under the influence of drugs. It scares me to think I could be around people involved in arguments or crime started based off the legalization of marijuana. I plead with the legislature not to pass this bill for the sake of our next generation. Please don't pass HB1383.

Thank you for your time. May God be with you during this decision.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:28:55 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Conrad Caoagdan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Conrad Caoagdan, **and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.** This bill will increase crime and endanger our communities throughout the State. From looking at data from states that have passed recreational marijuana (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.), there has been a significant rise of marijuana usage in minors (aged 12-17). In addition, legalizing recreational marijuana may cause our youth to be suspended from school more often than now, and may also increase student suicide rates.

In some of these other states, there has been an increase of marijuana related ER visits, which increased medical costs tremendously. There also has been an increase of car accidents, including fatalities, in states like Colorado and Washington due to marijuana use. Crime rates had also increased in these states. In Colorado, crime rates have increased by about 11 times faster than the rest of the country which includes property and violent crimes. Also, in both Colorado and Oregon, there has been a 50% increase of illegal growing operations and seizures for marijuana.

There is a lot more that I can mention, but to put it all into perspective, legalizing recreational marijuana will NOT benefit our State in the long run. It will encourage more crime in our communities, endanger the lives of others, and have a negative impact to our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance.

Conrad Caoagdan

ccaogdan1953@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:31:59 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Shimogawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Lawmakers,

As a 3rd generation resident of Hawaii, I, along with my family, strongly oppose decriminalizing marijuana. I find it incredulous that our lawmakers would even think of approving this measure, particularly after the horrific accident that took place last week and the lives that were needlessly lost along with other individuals who are suffering both physically and emotionally.

Further, we have seen a growing number of accidents on our streets that have taken a number of lives. I contend that decriminalizing marijuana will open the door to more of these accidents that take the lives of our residents and visitors. Here again, I can't imagine why at this time, prior to getting a good handle on these serious losses and making our streets and communities safer, that you, our trusted lawmakers, would even consider approving this bill.

Lastly, there will be additional costs associated with this measure, costs that will fall on the shoulders of Hawaii taxpayers, and monetary profits that will be outweighed by the enormous hurt and consequences from opening this 'can of worms'. How can we and our families take on more losses, more financial burdens, or losing the funding of programs that provide/care for and nourish the majority that don't currently use this recreational drug? When will all this craziness and irrationality stop?

Lawmakers, many of you would not allow the use of these kinds of drugs in your own homes. I'm deeply troubled and disappointed that you would permit the recreational use of marijuana in our community, which sorely needs more safeguards and enforcement to protect its citizens and visitors, rather than opening the door to heartbreak, anger, and division.

I urge you, to vote HB1383 down. As our entrusted representatives, you can all do better for the people of Hawaii.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:32:28 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah E Shizuru	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Leah Shizuru, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will increase traffic-related fatalities and add to the homeless problem that we already face.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of significant importance to our community and future generations.

Leah Shizuru

(808) 285-3734

LShizuru@hawaii.edu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:33:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian E Beattie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Christian Beattie and I am opposed to legalization of recreational use of marijuana in Hawaii. As a young person, I was an avid pot smoker for five years. As I look back, I see that it was very detrimental to the starting of my adult life. This was in the late 70's while marijuana was illegal. If you allow this to be legal, a significant amount of young people will try it and get hooked. The easier you make something available to the masses, many more people will use it; that's common knowledge. I am very against this bill and at the age of 59, I have gained some wisdom.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opposition and deep concerns. I oppose HB1383.

Mahalo,

Christian Beattie

620-0939

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:33:45 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Wells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please carefully study the negative impact legalized recreational use has caused in the states that did the same. Hawaii will become flooded with drug dazed folks who don't contribute to the well being of our society. Mental illness will flourish as well as those seeking to profit from this law. Oahu youth will see drug use as appropriate and approved by adults who should be looking for their best. I oppose this bill. I am a teacher in the middle school here on Oahu and see the negative affects of adults who let our children go because they can't care for them as it is. Don't be the government that approves.

Lea Wells

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:37:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DO **NOT** PASS THIS BILL for the safety of our families, children, and senior citizens. I am strongly against legalizing marijuana in State of Hawaii. Legalizing marijuana will contribute to more crime, homelessness, and tendency to use other illegal drugs. Other states are already battling these issues.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:38:11 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Colorado has experienced a rise in homelessness since legalizing marijuana. Homelessness is already a big enough issue here. We should not be passing a bill that could increase the amount of people living on the streets. We should be focusing our efforts on ways to solve this problem instead.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:45:31 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seth Kinel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Seth Kinel, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will not be good for the state of Hawaii because of the potential dangers it will cause.

"Research clearly shows that marijuana has the potential to cause problems in daily life. A study of 129 college students found that, among those who smoked the drug at least 27 of the 30 days before being surveyed, critical skills related to attention, memory, and learning were seriously diminished. A study of postal workers found that employees who tested positive for marijuana had 55% more accidents, 85% more injuries and a 75% increase in being absent from work. In Australia, a study found that cannabis intoxication was responsible for 4.3% of driver fatalities"
(<https://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/marijuana/behind-the-smoke-screen.html>)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Seth Kinel

sethasakinel@gmail.com

808-212-3401

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:46:42 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Works	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Aaron Works, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B.1383.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on thus matter of great importance to our future generations.

Aaron Works

aaron.j.works@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:49:40 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CECILIA A SHIZURU	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Cecilia Shizuru, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition to H.B. 1383. I feel that this bill will increase homelessness, decrease productivity in all age groups, increase traffic accidents, increase domestic violence and other crimes due to impaired rational thinking and increased financial hardships.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and feelings in this matter which are highly important to the future of our islands.

Cecilia Shizuru

(808) 282-0605

leahbud@hawaii.rr.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:50:26 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sterling Dudley-Bowen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the legalization of marijuana in the State of Hawaii

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:57:40 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel K Kamai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB 1383

ABOUT THIS BILL:

1. HB 1383 is seeking to decriminalize marijuana related offenses and remove all fines and violations, putting it on par with alcohol. This would mean that marijuana use would no longer be illegal in our state.
2. The bill also would establish a cannabis evaluation-working group – a group under the Attorney General’s office that is going to “study” the way marijuana is implemented in other states and find out how this can benefit the state.
 - When the legislature wants to pass a bill that they may not have enough support for, they will establish a group to “study” the issue and then create a bill they can pass the next year claiming that they have done all the necessary research and already considered all the issues regardless of public input.

WHY WE OPPOSE THIS BILL:

- We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities
- In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states
- Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)
- Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)
- Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
- Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states
- CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

Aside from considering personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, we are **strongly opposed** to this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:01:37 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please vote "NO" on this bill.

1. Huge potential exists for more negative than positive impacts to our island state. Current data* shows negative impacts in the four states and D.C. that have decriminalized this and cannot be ignored for the few who can control usage. HI already struggles with drug addictions that lead to homelessness. We don't even have medically agreed upon vaping addiction methods and we need stronger social supports and initial/supporting regulations to address recreational marijuana use before decriminalizing. Please - let's not create another problem without solutions. We have much more important issues to tackle.
2. Please consider the personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use.
3. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community.

Please vote "NO" on behalf of the majority of the people you represent. Our children depend on us to create a Hawai'i that is safe and nurtures wellness. Aloha.

*Data (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.)

- In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017)
This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states
- Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)
- Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)
- Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%),

Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

- Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states

- CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:01:47 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Kaimimoku	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Cynthia Kaimimoku. I oppose HB 1383.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:02:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vincent Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!!!

My name is Vincent Leong and I am a very concerned citizen . I am in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will cause an even a bigger case of drug use of not only marijuana but even stronger drugs such as crystal meth as marijuana is an introduction of drugs.

Looking at a state like Colorado that has legalized the recreational use of marijuana, the Salvation Army at just one location in Colorado has seen an increase in the homeless shelter from 30 to 300 people. We already have a crisis with homelessness in our state and this would cause an even bigger problem of homelessness.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify against this matter of great importance to future generations.

Vincent Leong

91-750 Ihipehu Street

Ewa Beach, Hi. 96706

808-291-6259

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:08:42 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
G Yoza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:09:05 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nicole kato	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Nicole Kato, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

Statistics gathered from other states that have legalized its use gives us cause to be alarmed. In other jurisdictions, there has been a significant rise in marijuana use among teens 12-17 years old and has increased school suspensions and student suicides in those states. Crime rate has also increased 11 times faster since its legalization, including property and violent crimes. Drug induced drivers caused by marijuana use has caused fatal auto crashes to increase by 88% according to the NHTSA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Sincerely,
Nicole Kato

nicolekatohi@gmail.com

808.741.8809

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:17:13 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Madix	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If this bill is passed, it will add to the further declination of our society. Opening doors to higher crime, and separation of family. Cannibus, even though proven to be helpful in certain medical aid, is already being abused by those who do NOT necessarily need it medically, but for social use. Making this substance legal will ultimately teach the younger generation, culture can change society, and laws can be changed because the masses WANT corruption, rather than pushing AGAINST what is wrong and immoral. Please STOP this BILL.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:18:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keenan Meyer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe that this is a horrible idea. This is going to setting up our youth for failure and problems that are long term. This is something that needs to be kept as illegal unless it's medicinal. This will cause problems throughout our islands!!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:18:58 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bertram I Fujishige	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Do Not Support any initiative that would expand/modify upon use of marijuana from medical to recreational use in the State of Hawaii. Expansion to recreational use of marijuana to expand revenue to the State has not been proven to be acceptable with negative outcomes. Negative outcomes, encourages use of marijuana to citizenry with dangers mentally and emotionally and, especially dangerous to the youth of Hawaii. This will cause enormous difficulties in executing discipline and good order of conduct/behavior in our K-12 school systems (public and private).

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:19:13 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jarrett Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To our elected representatives,

I am in complete opposition to HB 1383. The reasons cited in the bill in support of it should not be the reason to move it forward. The mentality demonstrated is that because other states are doing it, Hawaii also should.

It is very clear to me that this is being done toward the eventual legalization of marijuana like in the 10 other states noted in the bill. If it is hard to control marijuana use now, it will be a lot more difficult by passing this bill. Furthermore, while there are limited resources to combat it now, it will take a lot more resources to control it later.

Studies have shown that crimes (especially violent crimes) are up in Colorado since marijuana's legalization. It's such a concern there that their Governor is strongly considering re-criminalizing marijuana. So I ask, "Why would you want to bring this upon the State of Hawaii?"

Jarrett Oshiro

Waipahu resident

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:21:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabriella Marzullo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support this bill being passed. In states where marijuana has been legalized, homelessness has increased. As a state with a huge homeless population, I can only see this problem getting worse. People seeking shelter has increased by 900% at Salvation Army shelters. We should be working to pass more bills to help resolve issues with the houseless population. This bill will only make the issue worse. Please reconsider this bill as it does not reflect the values of the people of Hawaii or embody the Aloha Spirit.

Mahalo,

Gabriella Marzullo

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:22:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Kinel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Charlie Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Richard Kinel, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

This bill will be a blot on the state and its people. Other states that have gone this route are already suffering from increased hospitalizations and homelessness. Medical studies show that the use of marijuana is much worse than regular tobacco, with around 10% of routine users of the drug suffering from clinical paranoia. Think of the younger ones, please. Do not go down this slippery slope. Be wise. Mahalo!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Richard Kinel

richnmercy@aol.com

808-398-3832

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:22:34 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Bousseilaire	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Jason Bousseilaire, and I am a concerned citizen, I am testifying in opposition of HB1383. This bill will be a bad choice for the state of Hawaii. This will increase the Houseless population and hurt our economy if we allow marijuana for recreational use. Looking at the other states that have made this legal have impacted them negatively. We already have a Houseless issue and we don't need to make it worse.

Thanks you for taking out the time and reading this testimony

Jason Bousseilaire

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:26:53 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sooyeng khoo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My mum's brother started using recreation drug and ended up a drug addict. He spent his life in and out rehab and prison. My younger brother also used recreation drug and brought down the family. I strongly opposed legalized the use of marijuana. I hope I am not alone fighting this war and hope to save many innocent lives being destroyed.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:31:47 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HERLETTE UEJO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:31:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nelson Uejo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:35:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Sayurin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Lawrence Sayurin I oppose HB 1383.

Thank you for hearing testimony.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:39:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosa Compton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am not in agreement with legalizing recreational marijuana use in the state of Hawaii. I believe the legalization of marijuana will negatively impact the people and especially our youth. Please do not pass this Bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:41:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Pasion	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:42:44 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Dorflinger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Hearing Date: February 4, 2019

February 3, 2019

My name is Cynthia A. Dorflinger, and I am a concerned citizen testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383.

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

- The data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) record the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities. In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states –
- According to the [2018 Marijuana Accountability Coalition report](#):
 -
 - Colorado currently holds the top ranking for first-time cannabis use among youth, representing a 65 percent increase from 2014 to 2016, according to the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#).
 - Colorado cannabis arrests for African-American and Hispanic youth have increased since legalization, according to the [Colorado Department of Public Safety](#).
 - The annual rate of cannabis-related emergency room visits increased 35 percent between 2011 and 2015, according to the CDPHE.
 - Colorado law enforcement confiscated 7,116 pounds of marijuana, carried out 252 felony arrests and made 346 highway interceptions of marijuana headed to 36 different states, according to the [Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area](#).

- In 2017, the [Boulder Police Department](#) reported a 54 percent increase in citations for public cannabis consumption since legalization.
- Alaska and Denver, being tourist destinations similar to ours, have both reported problem with visitors and their use of marijuana.

- Aside from considering personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, I stand **strongly opposed** to this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong opposition** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Cynthia A Dorflinger

2536 Manoa Road

Honolulu, HI 96822

808-284-5221

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:48:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Americo DiLoretto Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha:

My name is Americo DiLoretto Jr. (Retired Disabled Navy Combat Veteran), and I'm a very concern citizen. I am testifying in opposition of bill HB1383. This bill will allow more homeless people as a magnet into our Islands to smoke drugs/pot freely in public and out of control, that the HPD Police will be overwhelmed and stressed out and distracted from other serious crimes being commeted. Our Islands will be so full of more homeless drug users from other States, because Hawaii warm weather and begging on our streets. This matter will affect our tourest from Japan the U.S. Mainland, they'll refuse to visit because of our ever increasing pot/drug problems. This bill HB1383 will destroy our Islands and its people and children. Homeless people can come up with a \$330 to \$400.00 airfare to Hawaii... its simple, just keep on begging or sell drugs to getbthe money to fly to Hawaii. This bill is crazy and wrong... PERIOD!. Lets keep Hawaii drug free and safe for all visitors around the world. Mahalo Love to you and yours.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:50:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. In spite of any restrictions that may be attached, this fails our teenagers and young adults. Many are at a crossroads in their lives. The decriminalization of this gateway drug would send the wrong message and have devastating impacts to families. It's extremely irresponsible to pass this bill, especially in such a hurriedly with only "Super Bowl Sunday", available to alert the community.

Alan Miller

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:51:07 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Meyers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If this bill passes there will be an increase of homeless people on the streets and we already have a problem with homeless everywhere you go on this island. The cost of living in Honolulu is incredibly expensive for your average working class that is why people leave this state because they cannot afford to live here. With the cost of living increasing and if this bill passes it will increase people impairing their judgement and possibly losing their homes/jobs. Having this bill approved could also possibly endanger people lives if people who are smoking marijuana and driving. Marijuana significantly Impairs judgment, motor coordination and reaction time. After the recent drinking and driving accident that happened on Alamoana blvd that killed three innocent people is something to consider because my fiance's cousin is in critical condition at the hospital and may possibly never have a normal life ever again. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:54:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ed Arcalas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Ed Arcalas, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383.

This bill will jepordize the safety of our children as well as the well-being our precious community here in Honolulu and throughout the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the oppportunity to testify in strong **opposition** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Ed Arcalas

mtpapalao@gmail.com

(808) 773-5050

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:55:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RobinTracy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Robin Lynn Tracy and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

I oppose this bill because it fundamentally alters the legal designation of marijuana to remove criminal penalties. In addition, I oppose the bill because the reasons for the change in designation have not been clearly defined and are not supported by clear and compelling scientific evidence. If this change is going to occur we need to have a public forum and debate with time to make a rational decision.

Thank you for your time.

Robin Lynn Tracy 808-266-0199.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:03:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harold Edwards	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There have been many scientific studies that show that children/youth who start marijuana end up not finishing school and not able to keep a job as adults. An example of one study was published in the July/August issue in the Reader's Digest entitled. The medical case against kids smoking pot. Yes we try hard to put safeguards on things like alcohol, cigarettes etc. but we all know that we have failed in all these areas just because they find a way to get to them even when they are illegal. Please for the sake of our children's future, do not allow this bill to pass.

A very concerned mother and grandmother,

Naomi Edwards

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:04:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vicki Murray	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Vicki Murray and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of HB1383. This bill will encourage more drug use and addiction in our state. Just take a moment to review the statistics of other states who have approved medical marijuana.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Vicki Murray

781-666-0752

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:10:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phyllis Matsuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:12:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Dacosin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:16:56 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robin hong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe passing this bill will increase crime and violence in Hawaii. Similar bills that have passed in Oregon and other states have been associated with increases in crime. I do not want to see this bill passed and strongly oppose it. The effects of Marijuana impair the mind and ability to make good judgments and drive safely. This bill would have a detrimental impact on our society and cause grief and irreversible damage to many people.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:18:37 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanne Yamauchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a retired teacher who cares about the future of our Hawaii youth. The passing of this bill may negatively impact many of these youth and their families! Please think about them and their future welfare and do not pass HB1383!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:20:19 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mark williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:21:11 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yancey Unequivocally	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Only medical marijuana should be legal for patients that needs this for medical reasons. We don't need high individuals in our work force and most important our next leaders (youth).

- We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities
- In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states
- Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)
- Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)
- Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
- Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states
- CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

please do not pass this bill. It will be devastating to Hawaii

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:21:53 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legalizing recreational marijuana will have a negative affect in the long-term welfare of the people of Hawaii and the economy of the state. It will affect productivity and attendance at workplaces and possibly our children's development. It will increase the homelessness situation the state is already having a difficult time managing.

Research has shown that adolescents who used marijuana regularly were significantly less likely than their non-using peers to finish high school or obtain a degree. They also had a much higher chance of developing dependence, using other drugs, and attempting suicide. Several studies have also linked heavy marijuana use to lower income, greater welfare dependence, unemployment, criminal behavior, and lower life satisfaction.

Studies have also suggested specific links between marijuana use and adverse consequences in the workplace, such as increased risk for injury or accidents. One study among postal workers found that employees who tested positive for marijuana on a pre-employment urine drug test had 55 percent more industrial accidents, 85 percent more injuries, and 75 percent greater absenteeism compared with those who tested negative for marijuana use.

Marijuana also affects brain development. When people begin using marijuana as teenagers, the drug may impair thinking, memory, and learning functions and affect how the brain builds connections between the areas necessary for these functions. People who started smoking marijuana heavily in their teens and had an ongoing marijuana use disorder lost an average of 8 IQ points between ages 13 and 38. The lost mental abilities didn't fully return in those who quit marijuana as adults.

Marijuana use can lead to the development of a substance use disorder, a medical illness in which the person is unable to stop using even though it's causing health and social problems in their life. Severe substance use disorders are also known as addiction. Research suggests that between 9 and 30 percent of those who use marijuana may develop some degree of marijuana use disorder.

I think we are all well aware that once recreational marijuana use is legalized, it's availability and use in our middle and high schools is going to increase. Children at

these age are most susceptible to peer pressure, not understanding the negative effects.

Please refer to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (www.drugabuse.gov) for the above statistics as well as more information on the physical/health and mental affects of marijuana, which can be as severe as psychosis and hallucinations as well as effects on babies whose mothers consume marijuana.

As legislators who is responsible and accountable for the welfare of the people of Hawaii especially our children, as well as the future of this state, I urge you to consider the negative long-term effects of legalizing recreational marijuana can have on our future generation and the economy of the state of Hawaii.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:22:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Grocki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

WHY WE OPPOSE THIS BILL:

- We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities
 - In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states
 - Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)
 - Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)
 - Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
 - Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states
 - CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)
- Aside from considering personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, we are strongly opposed to this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:23:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:24:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edna Kido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't rush this bill. We should study other states that have legalized recreation use of marijuana. And weigh out the pros and cons on how it would affect our community. Preliminary studies have already shown a negative impact on our youth.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:25:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Kae Aguilar	One Love Ministries	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:26:07 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna-Marie Musico	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:27:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betsy Itoga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support legalizing marijuana because it harms us physically and mentally. It's use is detrimental to our health and safety for the individual and others.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:27:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mele Beeman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1383. As the daughter of an HPD police officer and niece of Officer Bronson Kaliloa, who was recently killed by a man heavily under the influence of drugs, I believe that allowing the legalization of recreational marijuana would only increase drug use across the board and lead to increase in crime making it even more difficult for law enforcement to do their jobs. This is just where my heart is on this matter but there are many other reasons including reported increase in traffic accidents in CO after they legalized use of marijuana as well as increase of marijuana use by the youth ages 12-17 in CO, WA, Alaska, OR, and D.C. We are Hawai'i, let's protect our keiki and do the right thing!

Thank you,

Mele

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:28:31 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Betty Ito and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of HB 1383.

This bill will be a detriment to our community and our future generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Betty Ito

(808)676-9155

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:28:53 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stan hong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill would cause harm to many people and subject us to the harmful effects of those individuals who choose to take mind altering drugs such as marijuana and then drive or steal to support their habit. We do not want this in Hawaii.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:32:54 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Santaniello	One love ministries	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:34:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a citizen of this community over the past 63 years, I strongly oppose this bill because of the PREMATUREITY of its ramifications. We do NOT know nor have sufficient enough data of the possible negative safety ramifications marijuana may have on our society. Money and the additional taxes this drug will generate does NOT justify its experimentation at this time. Safety should outweigh any financial incentives. As a pharmacist I am keenly aware of addiction and drug interaction issues between drugs like opioids and alcohol. Regarding marijuana, we do NOT know what unknown risks associated with it are lurching around the corner. In combination with other legal drugs, this is a dangerous game of Russian Roulette. we are setting up our next generation and future society for failure rather than success.

Do not move such an agenda forward until we have means to monitor and enforce intoxication in drivers like we do with alcohol, otherwise we will be chasing our tails trying to justify its legalization only after numerous deaths and injuries. Please do the right thing.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:35:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Inman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Jasmine Inman, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will negatively affect all in our community and society at large by posing personal mental health and physical issues. Also, we do not want a significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17, like what has happened in the first states to legalize the recreational use of marijuana (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Jasmine Inman

g1gg7es@yahoo.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:37:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
WENDALL SEN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

WHY WE OPPOSE THIS BILL:

-

We can look at the data from the

first states to legalize (Colorado,

Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and

Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities - In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12 - 17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006 - 2017)

This has affected student

suspension rates and there is a

higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states - Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases

in annual marijuana related ER

visits (costs in medical care are

tremendous) - Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in i

llegal grow operations and seizures

(the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)

-

Crime in CO increased 11 times

faster than the rest of the nation

(Mitchell,

2017

-

increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%),

Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and

Oregon

had the same for property crime,

larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

-

Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in

2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016),

and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states -

CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes

increased

from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017);

WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following

legalization (Johnson 2016)

Aside from considering personal

mental health (psychosis,

depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension,

arrhythmias,

stroke, etc.) issues surrounding

marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, we are strongly opposed to this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:38:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Priscilla Sen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I work with middle school youth in the DOE and I have seen first hand the damage and poor outcomes of those youth engaged in marijuana use (I.e., academic failure, poor school attendance, low motivation and serious emotional problems).

Please don't pass this law if you care about the future of our youth.

Priscilla Sen

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:38:53 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chuck Inman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Chuck Inman, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will negatively affect all in our community and society at large by posing personal mental health and physical issues. We do not want a significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17, like what has happened in the first states to legalize the recreational use of marijuana (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Chuck Inman

seniorfitness@mac.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:39:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Cooksey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1383 due to 2 reasons:

#1 This bill is being rushed through without adequate notice to the public! Thus the public is not able to give its opinion in support or opposition to the bill.

#2 Looking at how the legalization of marijuana is going in Colorado...funds to go to education. From my research, no funds have hit the schools yet and it has been legal for 5 years. How is Hawaii going to do it different? Don't know because there has been no public information put out. Too many questions still unanswered.

Please give the public more time to understand what this bill does or doesn't do.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:41:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Atud	One Love Ministries	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly believe that marijuana should not be legalized for recreational use. Think of our Ohana and what it would do to our community. Legalizing something like this would destroy who and what we are. Let us be an example of what our nation can be without marijuana. There is no benefit for an individual to be under the influence of this substance except for it to be addictive and detrimental to progressing in life and to their full potential. Let our choice be an example for others to do the same.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:44:07 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Burbage	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

my name is Amber Burbage and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill has been presented prematurely without any statistics on the issue and subject of the negative impact it has on those who are exposed to it freely and it should not be made readily available to the public. This is already a crime of an epidemic so please do not make this available for purchase to the public to our future keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Thank you,

Amber Burbage

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:45:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Virardi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Stephanie Virardi and I am a concerned citizen of Honolulu, a mother of two middle-schoolers, as well as a police officer with HPD. I am strongly opposed to the legalization of recreational use of marijuana. Please help keep Hawaii a safe place to live, work and play for our future generations.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:45:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Chinen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in the 37th district and a concerned citizen and resident of Hawaii. I am in opposition of this bill because I believe marijuana is a dangerous and addictive substance just like alcohol. And that entrusting people to be responsible for only personal use will lead to its excessive abuse. I am concerned about our children and the future of Hawaii. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:46:18 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sue miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this legislation. Slow down! Conduct an in-depth study of what has happened to the societies who have decriminalized marijuana. We cannot afford to have an increase in homelessness, an increase in crime and a decrease in high school graduations - a few of the effects I have read about.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:46:34 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liane Fukumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1383 as a mother and a citizen that is concerned about our keiki and the future of our state. Legalizing marijuana for any and all purposes will give our kids the impression that this drug is harmless. If our own government will allow it, it must be safe and if it becomes easily availble, it will impact our families and our state in such a detrimental way. Our way of life in our state needs to be protected and guarded for our future. This is the responsibilty of our government.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:47:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rosolowich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. There needs to be more impact studies made on how legalizing marijuana have affected the other states that have legalized recreational marijuana. The environment that our keiki grow up in is our responsibility. I have grand children that I want to see them reach their full potential without this kind of hindrance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:47:23 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis Lovato	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

My name is Travis Lovato, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in view of the H.B. 1383.

As a former marijuana user for multiple years, I am opposed to people using marijuana for recreation. It was harmful to my mind and I think that it may have the same consequences on many people. Whatever you decide please look carefully into the negative aspects and listen to researchers on both sides of the argument. Just be careful as any choice you all make will impact many people.

Travis Lovato

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:50:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Zhang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Simon Zhang, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will cause many detrimental effects to the state of Hawaii and I don't want it to further affect the homelessness epidemic already present in Hawaii. We need to take care of the citizens within our communities. Please don't let this bill pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations and ohana.

Simon Zhang
(808) 271-3395

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:52:14 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Kamai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:54:37 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Huang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Matt Huang, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will cause many detrimental effects to the state of Hawaii and I don't want it to further affect the homelessness epidemic already present in Hawaii. We need to take care of the citizens within our communities. Please don't let this bill pass. It is not necessary and will produce negative effects and connotations for this society.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations and ohana.

Matthew Huang
(626) 716-1570

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:54:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Fujishige	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Sharon Fujishige of Honolulu and want to testify against H.B. 1383, which would legalize recreational marijuana.

I do agree with allowing use of nonpsychoactive components of marijuana in medical treatment. But recreational use of marijuana will add to alcoholism that plagues our society. We haven't been able to keep alcohol-impaired (as well as drug-impaired) drivers from driving under the influence of these substances. To think that people using marijuana recreationally will stay off the road is unrealistic. So people in the wrong place at the wrong time will suffer.

1. It seems that the issue is being sneaked through: it's news in the Sunday paper (back section) and the deadline for public response is 2 p.m. Super Bowl Sunday (today). Why not let the people vote on it, since it will affect everyone?

2. Justifying the bill because of potential revenue, because other states have done it, and "times have changed" is so lame.

a. We discuss more revenue without addressing how to curb spending and living within a budget (as is preached to the public).

b. We need to research the effect of legalization in those states who have lived with it the longest. This is not a harmless move. We need to learn from those who have gone before us (good and bad) so we don't have to face unintended consequences. Just scratching the surface, these were published here:

Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 6.23.17, "Car Crashes up in states with legal pot, study finds"

Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 8.29.17, "Study links pot to elevated blood pressure"

AAA Hawaii, Jan/Feb 2018, p.29, "Higher Education—as more marijuana users get behind the wheel, researchers study the relationship between the drug and driving"

c. All changes are not automatically good. Society has changed a lot since the 1960s and we're battling skyrocketing chronic diseases, suicides, addictions, violence, irresponsibility for personal actions (stupid choices), whining...

Thanks for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter. I hope the people will be able to weigh in on this at the ballot box: it is that big of an issue.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:55:17 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Chandler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to request for this bill to not be approved. Based on the negative impact it's proven in other states it's passed. I don't think it would help our state to approve it, it would raise crime rates and fatality in auto accidents.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:55:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Colorado and Washington have already passed referendums legalizing marijuana. They now have five years of data, with lessons learned (which include all the negative impacts affecting both their families and their communities). We should learn from them. They can attest to the accelerating growth of a multibillion dollar, addiction-for-profit industry, and the negative impacts that are being caused. Hawaii should learn from these other states and spare its citizens the negative impacts of such a bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:56:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leana Pahia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:56:05 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Myra Zhang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Myra Zhang, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will cause many detrimental effects to the state of Hawaii and I don't want it to further affect the homelessness epidemic already present in Hawaii. We need to take care of the citizens within our communities. Please don't let this bill pass. It is something that is close to my heart for this community and it is sad to see citizens marginalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations and ohana.

Myra Zhang
(602) 614-4482

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:57:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donovan Hardee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support the passing of this bill, and it will not do our citizens of Hawaii well. On the mainland there where like 30 people checking into the homeless shelter after the passing of a bill like this homelessness increase to 300 people checking into the homeless shelter. Passing this bill is not a good ideal for Hawaii. Please keep Hawaii a drug free place thats clean and sober.

Thank you.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:57:09 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heide San Nicolas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers!

Please OPPOSE House Bill 1383! The legalization of recreational marijuana will not support the safety and health of our communities. There is much documentation describing the detrimental effects to individuals, families, communities and increases the likelihood of users to become addicted and move onto harder drugs. Legalizing marijuana for recreation is not the answer and will only negatively impact Hawaii and our keiki. Thank you!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Heide San Nicolas

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:57:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Richard Ito, and as a private citizen, I am vehemently opposed to the legalization of marijuana (HB1383). States that have already legalized this drug have experienced a large increase in their crime rate. Accidents involving drivers impaired with this drug have increased dramatically/. We already have a serious problem with drivers impaired with alcohol. My friend's son, Dr. Travis Lau, was recently killed by an alcohol impaired driver. Legalization will also make this drug readily available to minors. PLEASE STOP ADDING TO AN ALREADY SERIOUS PROBLEM. DO NOT LEGALIZE MARIJUANA.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Ito

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:58:20 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alina Moka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Alina Moka, and I am a concerned citizen of Hawaii. I am testifying in opposition to H.B. 1383. This bill will result in harm to the health of the people here. Marijuana does not just hurt the person using it, but the children and society at large. I believe it would be a huge injustice to pass this law.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Alina Moka

alinasmoka@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:58:58 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Darlene Martin, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in OPPOSITION of H.B. 1383.

This bill will be a disservice to the well-being of our community in so many ways:

1. **Lives matter.** It would be naïve to think that people who use marijuana for recreational purposes will do so in a responsible manner when it comes to safety to themselves and others (e.g., driving under the influence; safety and performance in the workplace; effects of second-hand smoke at home where there are infants and children; at work; condo-dwellers; etc..
2. **Sending the wrong message to our future generation.** It blurs the line of what drugs are “OK” to take and what is not. And for what purpose?
3. **Take into consideration statistics of other states** that have legalized recreational marijuana and have reported an increase in accidents, addictions, suicide, family hardships, crime, etc.?

Please, please consider the facts and the trickle-down effects that this piece of legislation will have on Hawaii – the place we call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong OPPOSITION on this matter of great importance.

Darlene Martin

Email address: jdmartin@hawaiiantel.net

Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Ivan Awa
808 988 2721

Day and Date of Hearing: Monday, February 4, 2019, 2:05 pm

House Bill 1383 Testimony
2/3/2019

I oppose Bill HB1383 for the following reasons:

Negative impacts from states that have legalized marijuana use (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon; and Washington D.C.) have been reported such as:

1 Significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states

2 Crime has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes and property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny;

3 Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% according to NHTSA;

4 Personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues

5 The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, we are strongly opposed to this bill.

Anthony Bordain, the TV personality was a marijuana user on his travel show. He recently died in a recent suicide by hanging. I know people have become suicidal from Marijuana use. Teens are especially susceptible. Our school classrooms are filled with uncontrollable teens or drop outs already. Marijuana will magnify the problem. I feel that vice like marijuana, prostitution and gambling should be confined to states such as Las Vegas and others. Keep Hawaii free from legal marijuana.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:59:51 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter P Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a teacher with Adult Education...working with students who had dropped out from high school. I have been fortunate to work with students who have been marijuana smoker. These students have been less successful in achieving their diplomas in comparison to those student who were not smoking. Some of these students could not focus at all and made the decision to dropped the program. Some of the parents of these students expressed serious grief to me and knew that their drug habits were keeping there child from focusing on more important steps to improve their lives.

Please kill this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:00:05 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Kawelo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Shannon Kawelo, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383 legalizing/ allowing recreational use of marijuana.

This bill will create chaos in our state. I do not agree with this bill and I highly oppose the passing of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Shannon Kawelo

PO Box 2914

Ewa Beach HI 96706

808-492-1695

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:00:43 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jess Wigley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is J. Wigley, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B 1383. I believe that further research is needed to study the effects of the legalization of marajuana in a state/population. I feel that increased marajuana (non-medical) will have a negative affect on Hawaii's population.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:02:51 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Shoji	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC. I have a 12 year old who will be entering her teen years and this will impact her and many of her classmates in many ways such as:

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass this bill for the sake of our community, especially for our keiki (who will reap the consequences the most). Please do not pass this bill so that some people will benefit financially at the cost of the rest of the community.

Mahalo,

Kelly Shoji

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:03:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Napoleon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is just too much evidence of detrimental results in states that have legalized marijuana.

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Committee Members

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2019
TIME: 2:05pm
PLACE: Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

FROM: Marti Tom

RE: HB 1383

I strongly oppose decriminalizing certain offenses related to marijuana for the following reasons:

1) Decriminalizing offenses does not lessen the harmful effects of the use of marijuana. Scientific studies show that teenagers' brains are more susceptible to long-lasting detrimental effects than alcohol according to research published in the American Journal of Psychiatry. Patricia Conrod, lead author and professor of psychiatry at the University of Montreal says, "Cannabis causes cognitive impairment and delayed cognitive development in adolescents." Furthermore, scientists also found that the impaired cognitive abilities did NOT improve even after stopping the use of marijuana.

In 2014 the Laret Psychiatry reported that teens who smoke marijuana on a daily basis are 60% less likely to graduate from high school or college than those who have never used marijuana and are more likely to attempt suicide. (Doesn't Hawaii already have a high suicide rate among teens?)

2) There is no way to prevent marijuana from getting into the hands of children and teenagers. Currently, they have access to adults' alcohol, opioids and cigarettes. Take your pick of one or any combination thereof. The quantity doesn't matter, it's the continued use of the drug. Decriminalization signals to children that it's okay to use a drug and erroneously, tells them that other drugs are worse. But, marijuana has rightly been labeled as the "gateway" drug leading to other dangerous drugs. Given that you, as a legislative body, are concerned with the growing epidemic of opioid use decriminalization would only compound this problem. Our society sees and suffers from drug abuse on a daily basis and continues to place an extreme burden on our physical and mental health professionals, law enforcement and families as well as exacerbating the overwhelming problem of homelessness.

Sound legislation does not contribute to society's problems, rather it seeks to ease them. Sometimes we do not need to follow in the footsteps of other states, especially when we can see statistics from these jurisdictions that experience a rise in criminal activity and auto accidents. It is not "good" legislation just because other states have embraced it, though, much to their dismay. The millions of dollars expected to be collected is the real reason government wants this. Despite increased revenue, much of this money will be used to solve the problems that drug abuse causes. So there is no gain for citizens. Decriminalization can only bring more burden to Hawaii. We will be paying for it with the health and well-being of our vulnerable children and those who think getting high will be a thrilling ride into their sunset years.

I hope you will think long-term and what is best for our state. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:05:18 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Beeman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the Hiuse Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Related to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My Name is David Beeman, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. The possibility of legalization of recreational marijuana in our state of Hawaii is very concerning. As someone who has first had experience with the effects of marijuana use I am confident to testify that marijuana is not equivalent in effect with alcohol and should not be treated with similar availability and permissibility. I have a family member who has been addicted to marijuana since a youth. As a parent and concerned citizen for all of the youth of our state we can not let marijuana be open and accessible. Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 1383.

David Beeman

808 284-3955

beemand8@gmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:05:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Chandler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to request for this bill to not be approved. Based on the negative impact it's proven in other states it's passed. I don't think it would help our state to approve it, it would raise crime rates and fatality in auto accidents.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:06:00 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CLAIRE LOO NAKATSUKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 1383. It is very bad and dangerous for teenagers, and most people in general, to have marijuana readily available. Teenagers that I know ended up engaging in marijuana because they were exposed to it, from their friends and acquaintances. They end up doing things that they otherwise wouldn't do which were dangerous and hurtful to friends and family.

Please be aware that most of the people and organizations that are pushing the legalization of recreational marijuana are doing it for their personal profit, and not for the benefit of the community.

I strongly oppose HB 1383.

Aloha.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:07:18 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nelson Okano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC.

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass it. It will cost us our community and state too much.

Mahalo,

Nelson Okano

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:08:59 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislator:

I am apposed to HB 1383, due to the effect it will have on youth, familes and homeless. It will be a burden to our already over burdened emergency services and increased costs to tax payers. Please do not support this bill, please pull it out of committe

Respectfully

F. San Nicolas

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:09:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Novelyn Gali-Camato	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 4, 2019

My name is Novelyn Gali-Camato, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

This bill will destroy the safety and healthy life that we are all hoping for our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Novelyn Gali-Camato

808-589-9617

2818 Winam Avenue Apt. 1A

Honolulu, HI 96916

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:09:08 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna L Felipe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 2, 2019

My name is Jenna Felipe, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will have a negative impact on our communities. As seen in other states, there will be a rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17, leading to higher drop out and suspension rates. The increase seen in other states has also led to a ride in student suicides, and related ER visits. All states have also seen a reported growth in crime and homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition of this matter of great importance of our future generations.

Jenna Felipe

808-306-1850

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:09:47 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanne Chikuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1383, seeking to decriminalize marijuana related offenses and remove all fines and viokations, putting on par with alcohol. This would mean that marijuana use in the State of Hawaii would no longer be illegal.

I oppose this bill because, looking at data from the other states who have already legalized the use of marijuana, it is evident that the use of marijuana increases, especially among youth aged 12-17. Along with increased use comes increased crime, fatalities, psychological and emotional problems, etc.

I was ok with allowing medicinal use of marijuana with controlled measures in place, but do not approve of recreational, general, uncontrolled use. Therefore, I stronly urge this bill not be passed and the legislators of the State of Hawaii do not legalize use of marijuana.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:14:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Siu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC.

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass it. It will cost us our community and state too much. My granddaughter just entered her teen years and will suffer the consequences if HB 1383 is approved. Please do not approve it.

Thank you,

Emily Siu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:14:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Meimer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Decriminalizing drugs will ultimately lead to legalizing it. At this point, where our society is, I do not think it will be beneficial to society going down that route.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:20:00 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Meimer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against decriminalizing and the eventual legalization. It will not make for a better society.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:21:10 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Siu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC.

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass it. It will cost us our community and state too much. My niece just turned 12 years old and will suffer the consequences if HB 1383 is approved. Please do not approve it.

Thank you,

Kevin Siu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:22:31 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kam Chun Siu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC.

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass it. It will cost us our community and state too much. My granddaughter is turning 13 years old and will suffer the consequences if HB 1383 is approved. Please do not approve it.

Thank you,

Kam Chun Siu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:27:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradford Chikuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1383, seeking to decriminalize marijuana related offenses and remove all fines and violations, putting it on par with alcohol. This would mean that marijuana use would no longer be illegal in our state.

Looking at data from the 5 states that have already legalized the recreational use of marijuana, I feel that there is enough evidence to show that legalizing the use of marijuana leads to increased use, especially in the youth (ages 12-17). This affects performance and attendance in schools, which will, in turn, affect the future of our society. There is also evidence of increased crime, suicides, and fatalities.

Marijuana use for medicinal purposes, under strict regulation is ok, however, uncontrolled recreational use should remain illegal.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:35:00 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Siu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC.

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass it. It will cost us our community and state too much. My niece is turning 13 years old and will suffer the consequences if HB 1383 is approved. Please do not approve it.

Mahalo,

Kim Siu

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:45:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rose Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is my Testimony against HB1383.

Recreational Marijuana should not be endorsed by a responsible Hawaii legislature. Other states are now reaping the burden of increased homelessness that has followed passing of similar laws. Please do not allow this to happen to Hawaii. It will also appear to be a stamp of approval of the authorities for the youth of our state. Lets work to encourage our Hawaii youth to be healthy and intelligent, not drug users!

Medical Marijuana has an important place in our community for the health of a small percentage of our population. Recreational Marijuana will have a negative impact on families and all of our state. Legalizing this entry level drug will open the doors to unknown problems we will all have to pay for and suffer from with out having any positive impact at all. Please do not pass this, it will send a mixed message of your personal approval condoning narcotic drug use.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reject HB1383

I live and vote on Oahu, and I am concerned for all of our health and safety, now and in the future.

Aloha,

Rose Davis

1621 Ulupii Place

Kailua, HI 96734

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:52:44 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
grace miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: HB 1383; Relating to Marijuana

Aloha my name is Grace Miyamoto and I am a concerned citizen in opposition of HB1383. I am a retired elementary school teacher for the HI DOE. For many years, I taught the children to make healthy choices for their bodies. When the DARE program was in the schools they were taught Just say No to drugs and walk away. I firmly believe that marijuana is a drug that is not healthy for the body. Young people and adults should not be using harmful drugs. In fact the federal government still considers this an illegal drug. Just because other states are legalizing it doesn't make it right.

When I lived in CA and I was exposed to recreational marijuana in my apartment building, I thought, I am being denied my right to clean air. At one time cigarette smoking was thought of as ok. Today we know breathing second hand smoke is harmful and laws have been enacted to discourage smoking in public places. Will that happen with marijuana too one day?

There are those that say that we can get lot of revenues through the taxing of marijuana. I say to what expense? It is not worth seeing us get funds this way. Recreational marijuana could lead to the use of other harmful drugs. Marijuana impairs one's health. Hawaii should be a healthy state for all. Legalizing recreational use of marijuana will not make it so.

I strongly oppose SB1383.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Miyamoto

Waipahu, HI

Bottom line: DO NOT PASS HB 1383. I am in strong opposition to HB 1383.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:53:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olav Holst	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legalization of marijuana would increase the use of an addictive drug. Addictive drugs enslave the users. Why would the State of Hawaii want to increase addictions in our society. Hawaii's youth already have enough problems with out the State adding to them.

If the State of Hawaii legalizes recreational use you are giving your permission to use another substance that will increase impaired driving. Don't make our roads even more dangerous than they are!

Keep Hawaii family friendly. If you legalize marijuana you will attract addicts from else where and this is not smart public health policy or public safety policy!

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:58:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reginald Fung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i beleive that this bill should not be passed as it has not been through committees which would review the impact to Hawaii based on information from other state which have already leagalized

quote:

We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado,

Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities - In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states - Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous) - Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow

operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures) - Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell,

2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. - Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in

2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states - CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased

from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

Aside from considering personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, we are strongly opposed to this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:59:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Flores	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern:

I oppose HB 1383 because we have seen evidence in other states of the negative impacts of legalizing marijuana in states such as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington DC.

A significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17 (see National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected suspension rates and is correlated with a higher rate of student suicides in those states.

Crime rate has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation, including violent crimes, property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny.

Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased by 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to NHTSA.

Increases in mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc)

Increases in physical health issues (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc)

The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming legally marketable is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community. I am strongly opposed to this bill. Please do not pass it. It will cost us our community and state too much. My daughter is 15 years old and will suffer the consequences if HB 1383 is approved. Please do not approve it.

Mahalo,

Lisa Flores

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:04:26 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Given Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: HB 1383; Relating to Marijuana

Aloha my name is Given Miyamoto. I strongly oppose SB1383. Legalizing recreational marijuana will lead to more illegal drugs. This is not good for the people of Hawaii!

DO NOT PASS HB 1383. I am in strong opposition to HB 1383.

Given Miyamoto

Waipahu, HI

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:26:51 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Ayabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Kerri Ayabe, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will increase crime & negatively impact our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Kerri Ayabe

kerri.56@hotmail.com

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:37:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maura Alvaro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in precinct 31 and ask that the House NOT pass this bill.

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:38:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee-Ann Choy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the legalization of recreational use marijuana for the following reasons:

- We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities
- In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states
- Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)
- Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)
- Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
- Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states
- CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

Please vote NO to HB 1383

Lee-Ann Choy

Concerned Citizen, Mom, Business Owner

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:40:05 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Coffman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Matt and I lived in Colorado for 20 years prior to moving to Oahu.

In Colorado I operated a marketing agency that worked with Denver Public Schools and The Children's Hospital. After marijuana was decriminalized, our city changed.

Teachers we worked with in the largest school district in Colorado shared concerns with school-age students who used marijuana before class and the lack of power they had enforce any discipline because of lack of ability or rules to test children who came to class high. Additionally, the medical staff at The Children's Hospital received a spike in young children who consumed marijuana edibles.

Currently in Colorado there are more marijuana selling shops than Starbucks. My wife and I saw the writing on the wall for Colorado and relocated, with our now family of 7, to Hawaii, where we could get away from the peer influence of such a readily accessible gateway drug Marijuana.

Please help our future generation focus on sobriety and keeping our feet firmly planted on ground. Our teachers do not need any more challenges in the classroom and our hospital do no need any more children unnecessarily hospitalized.

Matt Coffman

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:00:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aine Nakasone Hintz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the legalization of marijuana. Preserve the lives of our children and the safety of our people and stop this bill.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:43:54 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary Committee Chair Lee and Members,

I oppose efforts to decriminalize Marijuana and request you defeat this measure's passage through committee.

Recent experiences with other states that have done this have shown an increase in criminal activity related to intoxication, public intoxication, driving under the influence of a mind-altering substance, expanded drug use of illegal forms, and other detrimental behavior.

In addition, the conflict between state and federal laws that are at odds with each other has not been resolved. Passage of this kind of decriminalization does not clear Hawaii citizens from federal charges of similar infraction. Decriminalization at state level will lead to confusion and hardship for Hawaii citizens who misunderstand this conflict of law.

Because there are too many unanswered questions, too many legal issues and too many confusing regulations for Hawaii citizens to follow, I strongly encourage you defer this measure indefinitely.

Mark White

94-217 Olua Place

Waipahu Hawaii

808 753-5323

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:01:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Murakami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:32:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Okuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Youths are desensitized to reality, or use it to escape reality. And, personal mental health as well as physical health issues are on the rise.

People in general should not have easy access to marijuana. It should only be used medicinally to ease pain, decrease nausea, etc. and strictly regulated by doctors.

Bridget A. Colgan
520 N Kalaheo Ave, Apt A
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE

To: Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Bridget Colgan, I am a medical resident in general surgery and Captain in the United States Army. I am a concerned citizen and am testifying in strong opposition of H.B. 1383. The legalization of marijuana is a public health concern as well as economic concern. Most importantly, this bill threatens to worsen the condition of the youth Hawaii, an extremely vulnerable population who are currently in need of legislation that will protect and strengthen their development, not threaten to worsen their vulnerability and lead them into entry level drug use and a lifetime of challenges with addiction, mental illness, and poverty. This bill will cause a significant rise in marijuana use by youth age 12-17 as evidenced by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health from 2006-2007. This leads to increased student suspension rates and correlates with student suicides in states that have legalized the use of marijuana.

In addition to the threat to the youth population, legalization of marijuana use is a threat to public health and the economy as a whole. Legalizing marijuana will lead to higher health care costs due to medical emergencies related to marijuana use as well as higher rates of psychiatric illness include bipolar disorder, depression, and anxiety. Both Colorado and Oregon have reported higher rates of ER visits and tremendous increases in health care costs.

Looking at the problems that have increased in states that have legalized marijuana use must serve as a warning against the legalization in Hawaii. Colorado and Oregon have also seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operation and seizures, affecting the USPS with the number of seizures.

Legalizing marijuana use will lead to higher crime rates. Crime in Colorado increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation with the legalizing of marijuana. In 2017, there was an 8.3% increase in property crimes and 18.6% increase in violent crimes. Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 according to reports from Quest Diagnostics and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states.

Legalizing marijuana use is a threat to the lives of the citizens of Hawaii. It is a threat not only to those who choose to use marijuana, but to those who do not and become the victims in fatal car accidents and drug related behaviors of users. Legalizing marijuana will lead to an increase in fatal motor vehicle accidents and drug related fatalities. Colorado drivers intoxicated with marijuana involved in fatal crashes increased 88% from 2013 to 2015 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report from 2017. Washington had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our

current and future generations. Please strongly consider the health and lives of the citizens of Hawaii and please represent the citizens of Hawaii who oppose the legalization of marijuana for the safety of the youth, the future of the state of Hawaii and the country, and the lives that will be damaged by this decision.

Bridget Colgan, MD, CT USA
Resident Physician, General Surgery
Tripler Army Medical Center
Cell: 845-239-3238
Email: bcolgan@gmail.com

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:24:11 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Batty	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 2, 2019

My name is Valerie Batty, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will detrimental to our State and nothing good can come from it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Valerie Batty
555 South St 3807
Honolulu HI 96813

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:33:28 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBERT BATTY	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Robert Batty, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. This bill will not produce any good for our State that already is in so much turmoil. How can anything like this better our State?

THank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Robert Batty
555 South St 3807
Honolulu HI 96813

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:52:36 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim Burris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Marijuana is a gateway drug, encouraging further and even more dangerous exploration of addictive and debilitating drugs. States that have legalized marijuana provide ample evidence of the harmful, and costly effects of such legislation.

- We can look at the data from the first states to legalize (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C.) the recreational use of marijuana and see the negative impact it is having on their communities
- - In all of the above locations, there has been significant rise in marijuana use by youth aged 12-17. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017) This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states
- - Both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER visits (costs in medical care are tremendous)
- - Colorado and Oregon also have seen more than 50% increases in illegal grow operations and seizures (the USPS has been highly affected with the number of seizures)
- - Crime in CO increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation (Mitchell, 2017- increases in both property crimes (8.3%) and violent crimes (18.6%), Alaska had dramatic increases in motor vehicle thefts and larceny, and Oregon had the same for property crime, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
- - Marijuana urine tests in WA and CO were double the national average in 2016 (Quest Diagnostics, 2016), and insurance claims are now a concern in legalized states
- - CO drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., 2017); WA also had a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in years following legalization (Johnson 2016)

Aside from considering personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues surrounding marijuana use, we can see from the history of other states and D.C. that society at large is negatively affected by the individual recreational use of marijuana. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, I am **strongly opposed** to this bill.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:55:08 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audra Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

February 3, 2019

My name is Audra Robinson, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383.

This bill if passed would increase unwelcome behavior and consequences that I would not want my young boys to have to deal with due to a lack of ethics and foresight for a better Hawaii. This bill would cause a lot of damage to the civil order that most hard working citizens would like. The world is already going downhill, please don't help the downward spiral by approving this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Audra Robinson

auj_iam@hotmail.com

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:13:10 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maile rogers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. There is no way that this will make our society a better, safer place for our keiki. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:25:47 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristyn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Recreation use of marijuana ruined my family, my relationships and I don't want it ruining my kids future. Giving the "okay" to use marijuana recreationally will give opportunities for our children to have easier access to a gateway drug.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:33:31 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ty Hintz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 1383. Legalizing marijuana will cause more car accidents, higher insurance premiums for everyone, and lower achieving youth in our schools.

Vote no to keep my children, 8 and 11, and the children of Hawaii from being solicited drugs. Marijuana makes learning harder and retards drive. Give our kids the best chance we can. They deserve it.

Inmates incarcerated for marijuana knew they were breaking the law and the risks they were taking before they were caught. If you take that away you will incentivize drug dealers and users to come to Hawaii. Keep this black market illegal.

Vote No on HB1383. Keep Hawaii safe, affordable, and our children's future bright.

LATE

Date: February 3, 2019

To: Chair Chris Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 – Relating to Marijuana

Hearing Date and Time: Monday, February 4, 2019 at 2:05 p.m.

My name is Margo Mun, and I am a concerned citizen testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383.

H.B. 1383 will have a negative impact on Hawaii's youth.

Based on the National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017, there have been a significant rise in marijuana use by youths aged from 12 – 17 years old in the four states (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and including Washington D.C.) that have legalized recreational use of marijuana.

Student suspension rates in schools have increased as a result and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana in those states.

In addition, keeping in mind of the tremendous rising costs in medical care, both Colorado and Oregon hospitals have reported significant increases in annual marijuana related ER (Emergency Room) visits

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance for our future generations in Hawaii.

Aloha,

Margo Mun
1710 Punahou St
Honolulu, HI 96822
808.256.6711

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:25:08 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rick redfield	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair

subject Hb 1383

feb 4, 2019

My name is Rick Redfield and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of Hb 1383.

This bill will literally help murder children and adults in Hawaii. It didn't work in Colorado and my nephew still suffers from the effects of it; he became a meth-head and testifying that this bill will lead children into meth addiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of life and death for the children and adults in Hawaii.

Rick Redfield

2211Ala Wai Blvd #2711 Honolulu 96815

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:52:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ju Frigillana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana
February 2, 2019

Dear Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ju Frigillana and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **opposition** of H.B. 1383. I am a registered voter in the 42 district and a long-term resident in Oahu. I believe this bill will cause future harm especially to our keiki and as a mother of 3 I am very concerned for my children's future. Because marijuana is currently illegal it helps me to instill values in my children against such drugs however if this was to become legalized I would not only have to worry about instilling values but fight against the culture of what is to become normal. I do not understand the reason behind such legalization and I believe this is something that will not help our future. What does it benefit? Are the risks worth the benefit? Does our society need any more reason to drive altered, allow minors to have readily accessible legal drug and even allow adults to come to work "high" because it is no longer illegal. What about safety? Do we really believe this is somehow beneficial to society? I do not. Please keep it legal for medical purposes only but don't trust the people to have self control when it is already proven in other states the increase of youth addiction and rise of accidental deaths related to altered mental status because of marijuana use. I hope as a State we can preserve such chaos by applying wisdom from these statistics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong **opposition** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Ju Frigillana
808-741-8641

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:05:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Brown III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members,

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. While full legalization of marijuana is preferable, decriminalization is an easy and obvious reform that should have already taken place. There is no reason we should keep sending people to prison for non-violent "crimes" such as marijuana possession. Perhaps the best part of this bill is that it, "provides for the dismissal of charges and expungement of criminal records based solely on cannabis offenses." This is an important part of comprehensive criminal justice reform, which is one of the greatest social justice and civil rights battles of our time. Please vote YES to report this bill out of committee toward full passage by the House.

Mahalo nui,

Joey Brown, Kailua, HI

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:06:25 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy Higashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana

Feb 3, 2019

My name is Tracy Higashi, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in oppositon of HB 1383.

This bill will not be benifical for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the oppportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our current and future generations.

Tracy Higashi

808-741-0447

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:17:52 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Frigillana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 1383 Relating to Marijuana
February 2, 2019

Dear Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Mark Frigillana and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 1383. I am a registered voter in the 42 district and a long-term resident in Oahu. I believe this bill will cause future harm especially to our keiki and as a father of 3 I am very concerned for my children's future. Because marijuana is currently illegal it helps me to instill values in my children against such drugs however if this was to become legalized for recreational use I would not only have to worry about instilling values but fight against the culture of what is to become normal. I do not understand the reason behind such legalization and I believe this is something that will not help our future. What does it benefit? Are the risks worth the benefit? Does our society need any more reason to drive altered, allow minors to have readily accessible legal drug and even allow adults to come to work "high" because it is no longer illegal. What about safety? Do we really believe this is somehow beneficial to society? I do not. Please keep it legal for medical purposes only but don't trust the people to have self control when it is already proven in other states the increase of youth addiction and rise of accidental deaths related to altered mental status because of marijuana use. I hope as a State we can preserve such chaos by applying wisdom from these statistics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Mark Frigillana
808-741-0551

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:25:08 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Santos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This will corrupt the island more so than it already is. The island suffers from drug users and thrives. Allowing legal use of marijuana gives them the right to act and make unsound decisions.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:54:26 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Poulos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:06:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kina Poulos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Kina Poulos. I am a lifelong Hawaii resident, I only want what is best for our state and local government. I oppose HB1383 because it has a negative impact on the health of the public at large, but more importantly at this time, because it decriminalizes a controlled substance for recreational use that is still prohibited under federal guidelines. This bill, if passed, attempts to override the laws of the whole country. This is an inappropriate stance for any state to adopt, to try to legalize a substance outlawed under the government it belongs to. While you may believe that it would be neutral or beneficial for cannababis to be permitted for recreational use, I urge you to hold off on bills like this unless it will no longer contradict higher laws. Thank you.

Date: Feb. 3, 2019

To: Chair Chris Lee
Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Sandra Young, Esq.
P.O. Box 2897
Aiea, HI 96701

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 1383 Relating to Marijuana/Cannabis Decriminalization

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong opposition to HB 1383 relating to marijuana/cannabis decriminalization.

I practice family law, and do not see marijuana/cannabis/drug use as having a positive impact on families and children. In fact, substance abuse is often the cause of the breakup of marriages. One spouse will waste limited family resources on marijuana/cannabis/drugs, rather than paying for basic family necessities such as rent, utilities, food, clothing and other necessities. The drug user frequently comes home late after work, and is not available or interested in caring for the children and fulfilling responsibilities in the home. In some cases, it has an adverse effect on their job performance.

Beyond the effects on families, there are societal costs: increased traffic accidents, increased police involvement, increased emergency room visits, increased danger to the public when a user is driving a motor vehicle, costs of drug treatment/education, increased illegal drug activity, etc.

By decriminalizing the use of marijuana/cannabis, you are giving keiki, the drug user and our community the idea that marijuana/cannabis use is acceptable and safe. Drug users will have no motivation to decrease usage or to cease the use of marijuana/cannabis. There is no mention of requiring substance abuse treatment, particularly those who are caught multiple times with drugs.

Have you reviewed the adverse impact of the legalization/decriminalization of marijuana in states that have passed such laws? If not, it should be done.

Again, please vote against this bill.

Thank you for your service and time.

Very truly yours,

Sandra Young

SANDRA YOUNG

RODERICK K.S. CHANG
98-1724 Nahele Street
Aiea, HI 96707
Phone: (808) 484-2282
Fax: (808) 682-4365
e-mail: changrod@yahoo.com



February 4, 2019

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1383

I oppose HB1383

Here are my reasons whY;

There have been negative impact from states that have legalized marijuana use (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington d.C.)

- 1) There have been a significant rise in marijuana use by the youth aged 12-17 (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affeceted student suspension rates and there is a higher correclation of student suicides with marijuana use in those states.
- 2) Crime has increased 11 times faster that the rest of the nation, including violent crimes and property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny
- 3) Drivers intoxicated with marijuara and invoiled in fatal crashes incread from 2013 to 2015 by 88% accorking to NHTSA
- 4) Personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) isuues have increased.
- 5) The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, I am strongly opposed to this bill.

Sincerely,

Roderick Chang
Private Citizen, State of Hawaii

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:35:33 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The people of the great state of Hawai'i do not want or need an encouragement to use mind-altering drugs like marijuana by decriminalization or legalization. Our keiki, who are already being bombarded with e-cigarettes and vaping, do not need to have access to marijuana. Studies show that marijuana is more harmful to keikis than it is to adults. Today's marijuana has higher THC content than it did in the past, and decriminalizing it will only encourage more usage. Do we want our roadways congested with "drugged driving?" Marijuana stays in the human body longer than alcohol. People who think that their minds are clear may still be impaired for driving.

It's time to stand up for our keikis. The police department, the Department of Transportation, and the justice system remain staunchly opposed. It's our community Hawaii! We live, work and pray here. It is our home and we don't need to ruin it with more mind-altering drugs.

SAY NO to recreational marijuana and no to decriminalization of marijuana.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

The Rev. Dr. Marion Ceruti

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:52:22 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LiSa Teri Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1383

I oppose HB1383

Here are my reasons why;

There have been negative impact from states that have legalized marijuana use (Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington DC.)

- 1. There have been a significant rise in marijuana use by the youth aged 12-17 (National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006-2017). This has affected student suspension rates and there is a higher correlation of student suicides with marijuana use in those states.**
- 2. Crime has increased 11 times faster that the rest of the nation, including violent crimes and property crimes, motor vehicle thefts and larceny**
- 3. Drivers intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal crashes increased from 2013 to 2015 by 88% according to NHTSA**
- 4. Personal mental health (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, etc.) and physical health (lung damage, hypertension, arrhythmias, stroke, etc.) issues have increased.**
- 5. The income generated for the state and private businesses by marijuana becoming a legally marketable product is not worth the high cost to the rest of our community, and so, I am strongly opposed to this bill.**

Sincerely,

LiSa Teri K. Chang

Private Citizen, State of Hawaii

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:11:59 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GLEN T YASUE	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 4, 2019, 7:05 AM

Judiciary Committee

State of Hawaii Legislature

Gentlemen:

I am opposed to the decriminalization of marijuana for recreational use.

Independent studies show that not only are recreational uses of marijuana harmful to children and young adults, but also increases crime rates in jurisdictions that allow it.

Therefore, please reject this bill.

Yours very truly,

Glen and Judy Yasue

1050 Lunalilo St Apt 906

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:14:19 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gary burbage	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:50:38 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Subin Ueda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly opposed due to negative consequences of marijuana use seen in my work with adolescents and adults. Lack of regulation will make outcomes worse.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:55:03 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shemnon Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lee of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: HB 1383; Relating to Marijuana

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Shemnon Miyamoto and I am testifying in **OPPOSITION** of H.B. 1383.

I currently am employed as a practicing nurse practitioner and am concerned about the additional economic strain that this bill will have on our already teetering healthcare system. If this bill passes and recreational use of marijuana (MJ) ensues ER visits and hospital admissions will increase as they already have in states where marijuana has been legalized.

I frequently see marijuana users showing up at our emergency rooms and urgent care facilities with symptoms ranging from uncontrollable vomiting to psychotic symptoms. About 20-30% of these individuals are then admitted for additional hospital treatment and tests.

The worst impact besides economic cost to our healthcare system will be the impact it will have on our youth and children. Adolescent teens still have developing brains till their mid to late 20's. During this vulnerable time in their lives the legalization would make MJ use even more tempting to try and even easier for them to gain access too. The use of this drug recreationally may also be a gateway for additional use of other troubling and even more addictive drugs. Second hand smoke is also another issue all in itself where the youngest and most innocent in our society will be impacted.

In addition to the government tax incentive I know there are lobbyist and special interest groups with big pockets pushing for this to be legalized. I'm also sure that this is partly why this is even on the floor at this time. For the good of our state and country please do not pass this bill. Hawaii deserves better than this.

Mahalo,

Shemnon Miyamoto CRNA

(Registered Nurse Practitioner)

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:55:11 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Fong	Metro christian church	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legalization will result in following neagative impacts to our community and state

- 1) other states have seen use in youth as young as 12!!
- 2) increased mental impairment
- 3) increase in crime to include theft and larceny
- 4) driver impairment that will lead to increased traffic fatalities which we are already trying to deal with as a state

please protect our state and it's future we voted for those who will be responsible for this decision please vote with a heart of integrity and not allow what has happened to other states to happen to Hawaii

We trust those we have put in office to vote wisely our future is in your hands thank you

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:18:24 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clarisse S. Ching Lavatai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Marijuana is a mind altering drug. It impairs judgement. I don't want exposure to it for myself or my family.

Though marijuana use does not lead to addiction/illegal drug use for all, it is for the greater good of all that we stop things that can lead to addictions/illegal drug use to minimize societal and financial costs later

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:59:03 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. L. Souza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

From: Bradford Lum <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:04 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB1383



Decriminalization of Cannabis

Name	Bradford Lum
Email	hawaiianbl@gmail.com
Testimony	<p>Aloha House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing today to be in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1383. This measure is an extremely important step for Hawaii to move towards a more equitable and less harmful society. We have seen the impacts from the failed 'War on Drugs' that has done so much damage to the lives of our citizens. This is a step in the right direction.</p> <p>Although, full legalization is desired this is a step in the right direction. Thank you for the leadership to hear this bill and please move it forward.</p> <p>Mahalo!</p>

From: Bradford Lum <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:02 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB1383



Decriminalization of Cannabis

Name	Bradford Lum
Email	hawaiianbl@gmail.com
Testimony	<p>Aloha House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing today to be in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1383. This measure is an extremely important step for Hawaii to move towards a more equitable and less harmful society. We have seen the impacts from the failed 'War on Drugs' that has done so much damage to the lives of our citizens. This is a step in the right direction.</p> <p>Although, full legalization is desired this is a step in the right direction. Thank you for the leadership to hear this bill and please move it forward.</p> <p>Mahalo!</p>

From: Randy Gonce <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:53 PM
To: patrickroyfan@gmail.com; JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB1383



Decriminalization of Cannabis

Name	Randy Gonce
Email	rgonce@my.hpu.edu
Testimony	<p>Aloha House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing today to be in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1383. This measure is an extremely important step for Hawaii to move towards a more equitable and less harmful society. We have seen the impacts from the failed 'War on Drugs' that has done so much damage to the lives of our citizens. This is a step in the right direction.</p> <p>Although, full legalization is desired this is a step in the right direction. Thank you for the leadership to hear this bill and please move it forward.</p> <p>Mahalo!</p>

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Susie Lam <susielam@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:34 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: House Bill 1383

I am very opposed to House Bill 1383. The legalization of recreational marijuana will be very damaging and corrupting to our culture and to the health of the people of Hawaii. "Say No to drugs!"

Sincerely
Susan Lam

Sent from my iPhone

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:50:26 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:08:49 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elias Storhaug	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Elias Storhaug, and I am a concerned citizen. I am opposed to HB1383.

This bill will hurt our future generations here in Hawaii as it will make drugs more accessible to our children.

Please oppose this bill and do not let it become law.

Sincerely

Elias Storhaug

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:35:55 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Destiny Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and members,

I am writing in support of HB1383 as it relates to the decriminalization of cannabis and the dismissal of criminal charges and expungement of criminal records relating to cannabis .

Punitive drug laws only help to criminalize already vulnerable populations and in the state of Hawaii they disproportionately place Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians behind bars.

I am grateful that the committee is taking the time to hear this bill and I ask that you continue to make progressive strides in Hawaii drug policy by moving this bill forward.

Thank you,

Destiny Brown

Constituent House District 25

Constituent Senate District 13

Student Hawaii Pacific University

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:06:00 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcia Kirk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:20:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen A. Kirk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

Dear Chairman Lee, and honorable members of the House of Representative.

My name is Ed Smith, and my wife Bernie and I are registered voters in House District 37 who oppose HB1383,

Bernie and I have grown up and lived in Hawaii all our lives and have seen the negative impact of marijuana use on mental health.

Marijuana is easily accessible from the good climate in Hawaii and causes impairment to the mind with little inhaling. Furthermore, the marijuana can lead to the introduction of stronger illegal drugs such as cocaine.

The states in which legalized marijuana for recreational use has seen an increase of crime and accidents caused from marijuana use.

Our family is active in helping the homeless population. We have experienced many families who struggle with mental health and drug/alcohol addiction. Legalizing recreational marijuana may add to the increasing homeless population in Hawaii and Hawaii has the highest per capital homeless population in the nation.

In summary, we are opposed to HB1383 from the easy access of the plant, influence to lead to stronger illegal drugs, and the negative impact it may have on the homeless population.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Bill please feel free to contact me at 255-7498.

Thank you for your time.

Ed Smith

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:09:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carm Akim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives,

I am Carm Akim, RN BSN an acute care nurse in our islands. I have been in the frontline of healthcare for nine years and have seen the detrimental effects of marijuana use. I have seen young patients who consumed marijuana and now having intractable nausea and vomiting OR worse, heartfailure leading to their death. I am for medicinal use of marijuana for children as a last resort to manage their seizure BUT I am strongly opposed use of marijuana for recreation. The effects of THC in a human body is worse than smoking. We do not want this drug to be freely used by our local people contributing to the health disparity of our communities. Lets not add to our health problems.

Thank you for your time reading my testimony.

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:54:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobbie Pang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:57:43 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Logue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:13:34 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalawai'a Goo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:14:11 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka) SisterFace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Minister Hector R. Hoyos Fully Support The Decriminalization Of Marijuana!

This is long over due & the right thing to do with all the science and everything we know today about Marijuana. Allowing people who's life's were forever changed because of being arrested or serving time, loss of work & or education was wrong & its time to start making up for it @the state level. I hope you all, we all can make this happen for the actual good & re-education of those affected in past. Marijuana is a good thing, Time to move on, Huge Alohas for allowing me to Support, Mahalos

Minister HRHSF

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:26:22 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
teresa miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good afternoon,

I take this opportunity to vote in opposition of HB1383.

As a mom, a nurse and a community member I strongly oppose the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. This will not bring anything good to our community. On the contrary, it will jeopardize our health, our safety and that of our loved ones.

Please consider the long lasting effects of your decision and see beyond the political and financial benefits of the decisions you are making. Legalization of marijuana for recreational use will harm our society and will lead to greater problems (financial, social, medical).

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:38:05 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Shackles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To : House Committee on Judiciary (JUD)

My name is Joy Shackles. I am a registered voter and a citizen of the state of Hawaii. I live in Mililani and I strongly oppose HB1383 and ask that you vote against this bill.

Thank you,

Joy Shackles

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:14:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Sofa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against this bill being passed. I am a mother and grandmother in Waianae. I believe passing of this bill will lead our children down the wrong path. It will be easy to get and use. Our youth will have access and their mental abilities will be impaired in school and outside school also. What happens when they get into a vehicle? More accidents and deaths. Young adults already account for a high percent of accidents. What will happen when they are under the influence of marijuana? Another thing is the family. I believe you are going to see a great change in the respect of children for their parents and their siblings. Please don't pass this bill

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Rep. Tom Brower

Rep. Calvin K.Y.
Say

Rep. Richard P.
Creagan

Rep. Gregg
Takayama

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen

Rep. Ryan I.
Yamane

Rep. Angus L.K.
McKelvey

Rep. Cynthia
Thielen

Rep. Dee Morikawa



NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2019

TIME: 2:05pm

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

HB 1383

Status

RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

Decriminalizes certain offenses relating to marijuana and establishes a schedule of monetary fines for violations. Changes statutory references from "marijuana" to "cannabis." Provides for the dismissal of charges and expungement of criminal records based solely on cannabis offenses. Establishes the cannabis evaluation working group. Requires a report to the Legislature.

Dear Committee Members:

In 2012, Colorado and Washington voters passed referendums legalizing marijuana, accelerating the growth of a multibillion dollar, addiction-for-profit industry, and causing negative impacts both inside and outside of those states. We now have five years of data, lessons learned, and negative impacts affecting both families and communities.

The goal of the Big Marijuana industry, like any other for profit business is to successfully convert young, casual users into heavy, more frequent users, thus selling more product. As commercialization increases in legalized states, false advertising of marijuana products as being "natural" and "healthier than alcohol and tobacco" have greatly decreased the perceived risk of harm related to marijuana use. The main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, THC, has now been observed to cause many

different types of mental and physiological health problems— especially in children and youth.

Given this nation’s addiction epidemic—deaths driven largely by opioids—the rise of lax legalization policies comes at an especially inopportune time. In the time that the opioid epidemic have increased, the percentage of marijuana users who are using the drug frequently has skyrocketed (Institute for Behavior and Health [IBH], n.d.). This is unsurprising, as peer-reviewed research has revealed early marijuana use more than doubles the likelihood of opioid use later in life. Marijuana users are also [three times more likely](#) than non-users to become addicted to heroin, and a [2017 National Academy of Sciences report](#) found a statistical association between marijuana use and the development of substance dependence for other drugs like opioids and heroin.

It’s also important to keep in mind that marijuana *on its own* is harmful. The average potency of marijuana has skyrocketed since the 1970’s and research demonstrates it is associated with substance use disorders, drugged driving crashes, lower IQ, and other negative consequences. Today, more young people are voluntarily seeking treatment for marijuana addiction than for all other drugs combined, including alcohol.

Although marijuana industry lobbyists claim that the mass commercialization of marijuana poses little threat to society, the evidence suggests there are a number of growing public health issues.

The industry has prospered in selling marijuana-infused “edibles” that come in the form of cookies, candy, ice cream, sodas, and other sweet treats that are particularly appealing to children. These edibles comprise approximately 20 to 50% of the market in legalized states (where data is available), thereby increasing their availability to children and youth who are normally unaware of consumption serving sizes and consequences (Colorado Department of Revenue, 2015; O’Connor, Danelo, Fukano, Johnson, Law, & Shortt, 2016). The market for marijuana flower hybrids and concentrates continues to rise with the increase in demand for products with higher THC potency levels. In Seattle, Washington, the average THC potency level far exceeds the national average at 21.24% for marijuana flowers and 72.76% for marijuana concentrates (NHIDTA, 2016). And mislabeling is not uncommon. According to Soldotna, Alaska, Police Chief Peter Mlynarik, testing of marijuana products revealed discrepancies “... of up to 77% difference in THC potency in the samples provided” (P. Mlynarik, personal communication, January 19, 2018). All legal states have had numerous recalls due to poor labeling.

MARIJUANA-RELATED POISON CONTROL CALLS, HOSPITALIZATIONS, AND ER VISITS

The increase in marijuana availability due to legalization has led to increasing numbers of marijuana-related poison control calls, hospitalizations, and ER visits. In Colorado, calls to poison control centers have risen 210% between the four-year averages before and after recreational legalization (RMPDC, 2017). Washington has seen a 70% increase in calls between the three-year averages before and after legalization (WSOFM, 2017).

Marijuana-related emergency room visits have also surged since legalization. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the annual rate of marijuana-related emergency room visits increased 35% between the years 2011 and 2015 (CDPHE, 2016). The burden on the emergency departments stemming from the type of patient care required and the resulting financial implications have been large for hospitals in Colorado (Finn, 2015).

AVERAGE TOXICOLOGY OF SUICIDES AMONG ADOLESCENTS AGES 10-19 YEARS OLD (WITH KNOWN TOXICOLOGY) SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Violent Death Reporting System Increase since legalization. Colorado toxicology reports show the percentage of adolescent suicide victims testing positive for marijuana has increased (CDPHE, 2017). This is not terribly surprising, as daily marijuana use among youth who begin before the age of 17 significantly increases the risk of suicide attempts (Silins et al., 2014).

Direct associations have been made between the frequency of marijuana use and higher THC potency with the development of mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, reshaping of brain matter, and addiction) (Miller, in press; Fischer et al., 2017).

Links to lung damage and serious cardiovascular problems have also been found (hypertension, myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, stroke, and cardiac arrest) (Pacher, Steffens, Hasko, Schindler, & Kunos, 2017; Hall & Lynskey, 2016).

Marijuana use during pregnancy has also been shown to negatively affect the cognitive development of children by increasing their risk of hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inability to focus (Wang et al., 2017; Huizink & Mulder, 2006).

Chronic adolescent marijuana use has been correlated with cognitive impairment and a decreased ability to do well in work or school (Finn, 2015; Meier, Hill, Small, & Luthar, 2015; Arria, Caldeira, Bugbee, Vincent, & O'Grady, 2015; Meier et al., 2012).

Marijuana has a variety of other interactions with mental health. While the popular view holds that marijuana is not addictive, brain scans of marijuana users show changes in the structure of the brain's reward center to be consistent with addiction (Gilman et al., 2014).

Heavy users have also been clearly observed to have withdrawal symptoms (Hasin, Keyes, Alderson, Wang, Aharonovich, & Grant, 2008). In Colorado, marijuana is the second drug most often implicated in addiction treatment admissions, after alcohol (Colorado Department of Health Services [CDHS], Office of Behavioral Health, 2017).

Furthermore, a number of studies have identified marijuana's role in the pathway to other substance abuse. For example, a groundbreaking study of over 30,000 Americans showed that participants who reported marijuana use in the previous year were 2.6 times more likely to abuse prescription opioids (Olfson et al., 2017).

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION NOT DECREASING • Researchers from Oregon State University found that college students under the age of 21 who are binge drinkers have been one of the primary groups of marijuana users after legalization (Darling, 2017). • The gallons of alcohol consumed in Colorado since marijuana legalization have increased by 8% (Colorado Department of Revenue [CDR], Colorado Liquor Excise Tax, 2017).

Today's highly potent marijuana represents a growing and significant threat to public health and safety, a threat that is amplified by a new marijuana industry intent on profiting from heavy use.

Please vote NO on HB 1383

Sincerely,

Fern Mossman

LATE

HB-1383

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 5:33:43 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/4/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill because I feel that marijuana has a lot of medicinal properties that can help benefit peoplem. For far too long marijuana has been demonized, but now there are policies and laws that have been starting to be passed as well as other states that have taken notice to how beneficial marjiana is and I think Hawai'i should be apart of that as well. I hope you all will support it too.

Thank you,

Nanea Lo

I oppose HB1383

(decriminalizing the use cannabis)

As a resident of
Hawai'i, I oppose

HB1383 for **moral** reasons and

because it will create more crime related activities because of people being under the influence of a DRUG. This is a HUGE safety issue. Children should not be exposed to people who are on drugs who could cause physical harm. I do not promote the legalization use of any drug.

Can you imagine people driving HIGH in the streets of Hawaii? It's like being intoxicated. WAKE UP HAWAII. People will be given the GREEN light to smoke and create A dangerous environment to all citizens who are not in their right state of mind.

I object to the timing of the hearing testimony deadline coinciding with SUPER BOWL SUNDAY.


Rowen Monroe 2/4/19

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Gordon Edlin <edlingordon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:17 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Tiger Lily <710tigerlily@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:00 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

Sent from my iPhone

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: David O'Quinn <doquinn@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 5:19 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

David O'Quinn
County of Kauai

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: RiSean Tinsley <riseantin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:03 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: JL How <jlhowery@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:40 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa!

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: thaddeus pham <tediousmonkey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:38 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I strongly support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

As an active community concerned with public health and public safety, I believe this bill is an important step towards healing individuals and communities from the health and social harms of unnecessary incarceration.

With gratitude and respect,
Thaddeus Pham
1013 Prospect Street, #518
Honolulu, HI 96822

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Landon Li <landonli@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:04 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: kiana Kali <kianaistheone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:54 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members: I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!
Kiana Kali

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Susan Kaintz Murphy <slkm@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:28 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!
Susan Kaintz

Sent from my iPad

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Honolulu Commercial Cleaning <jarvisjg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:25 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

Jarvis Gaidzinski

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Marya Grambs <mgrambs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:10 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

Sent from my iPhone
Marya Grambs
808-778-9178

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Kat Brady <kat.caphi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:56 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this common-sense measure to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

Kat Brady
Coordinator

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Maxine <maxofremax@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

Aloha,

Maxine Robson

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Jenjira Yahirun <jyahirun@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:38 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!
Jenjira Yahirun

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Robert <robq68@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:33 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383 - Cannabis Decriminalization

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I support this bill to decriminalize cannabis, help people clear their records of cannabis convictions and to begin the conversation regarding the future of adult use cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui!

Robert Quartero

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: Douglas Campbell <dcamp42@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:05 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383

I support this bill and ask for a report to be done by 2019.

Sent from my iPhone

sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

From: melanie wills <melwills77@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 5:34 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB1383

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill. HB1383 along with Senate Bill 606 bring the most justice for those impacted by the failed drug war. How can we admit we were wrong about cannabis all these years without addressing the horrible injustice done to all of those people and families. Individuals charged or convicted with cannabis crimes are guilty of nothing but being ahead of their time. These people have known the health benefits and general harmlessness of cannabis for many years. We must, in the very least, provide for these people to no longer be treated as criminals.

Sincerely,
Melanie Wills
Sent from my iPhone