



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**

January 31, 2019
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016
**S.B. 686
RELATING TO MARIJUANA**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill.

The DOT does not support the legalization of marijuana because there has been a considerable amount of motor vehicle crashes that resulted in injury and death where drivers showed positive findings for marijuana.

In Hawaii, 22 percent of fatal crashes that occurred during calendar years 2013 to 2017 resulted in positive findings for marijuana in drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians. The DOT believes that legalizing marijuana will result an increase in traffic crashes resulting in injury and deaths on our roads and arrests for impaired driving for marijuana.

Colorado and Washington State that legalized marijuana a few years ago have reported an increase in traffic deaths involving drivers with marijuana in their systems. Colorado and Washington State along with other states that have recently legalized marijuana have experienced an increase in the number of drivers arrested for impaired driving for marijuana.

Based on the information we have collected from our State accident history and reports from other states that have legalized marijuana, HDOT believes that legalizing 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 221

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

<http://tax.hawaii.gov/>

Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560

Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 686, Relating to Marijuana

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 686 for the Committee's consideration.

S.B. 686 legalizes the use, possession, and sale of marijuana in certain amounts and provides for the licensure and regulation of marijuana establishments. The bill requires the Department to develop administrative rules defining the standards for licensure, including the security requirements for marijuana establishments, health and safety regulations for the manufacture and cultivation of marijuana, restrictions on advertising, labeling requirements. S.B. 686 also requires the Department to issue licenses to marijuana establishments. The bill provides specifically for the taxation of marijuana establishments.

First, the Department notes that the bill requires the Department of Taxation to develop administrative rules defining the eligibility requirements for marijuana establishments and to issue licenses to marijuana establishments. The bill thus makes the Department the chief regulator of the recreational marijuana industry. The marijuana industry is a heavily regulated industry and that regulation is very specialized and nuanced. The Department does not have the expertise necessary to regulate marijuana establishments. The Department does not believe that it is the appropriate state agency to be assigned general regulation of the marijuana industry.

Second, the Department notes that the provisions contained in the measure are not clear. The language states that marijuana establishments shall be subject to payment of income taxes under chapter 235 "on gross receipts." However, the income tax under chapter 235 is imposed on net income. Therefore, it is unclear whether the language is merely to ensure marijuana establishments are subjected to Hawaii income taxes, or whether the intent is to impose a new tax on marijuana establishments, i.e., one that is measured by gross receipts. The Department suggests that the tax provisions be clarified.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 686, RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

LATE

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2019 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Kory W. Young, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General submits testimony in opposition to this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to decriminalize and regulate the possession and use of small amounts of marijuana for persons over the age of twenty-one years old; to legalize the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and sale of marijuana products and paraphernalia for personal (non-medical) use; to establish a licensing 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 to subject income derived from marijuana sales to state income taxes.

The Department has concerns about this bill, which promotes the personal use of marijuana. 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 legalize conduct that is currently prohibited under state law, federal laws regarding the nonmedical use of marijuana cannot be ignored.

Importantly, the United States Department of Justice (Department of Justice) issued a memorandum withdrawing earlier directives and instructing 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 Department of Justice, this limitation applies to the medical use of cannabis only.

Unless and until the federal government changes its laws regarding marijuana, the State should not expand the legalization of this drug to include non-medical use.

2. Specific legal concerns with the bill.

Proposed section -1, Definitions (page 5, lines 5 – 19), defines marijuana. However, providing a new definition for marijuana when definitions already exist in section 329-1, HRS, and section 712-1240, HRS, is unnecessary and likely to produce unwarranted confusion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
JONATHAN GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-TA

January 31, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 16
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 686, 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 Senate Bill No. 686, Relating to Marijuana. This bill seeks to legalize the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana.

This bill, in part, authorizes the personal use marijuana in any amount, the transfer or sale of one ounce or less of marijuana, an individual to possess or grow six marijuana plants, and the consumption of marijuana products. As a point of reference, one ounce of marijuana is equivalent to approximately 50 marijuana cigarettes (joints). Also, marijuana plants can grow in excess of six feet with numerous branches off of one root system. This could result in several ounces of marijuana from just one plant. Lastly, the amount of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in marijuana edibles can vary greatly which could lead to abuse and adverse effects.

The HPD is concerned that increasing the availability of marijuana will have a negative impact on public safety. Some primary areas of concern include the likelihood of an increased number of impaired drivers and diversion of product. The passage of this bill would lead to the increased availability of marijuana making it easier access for juveniles. Keeping drugs illegal reduces availability and lessens the willingness to use them.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 686, Relating to Marijuana.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Tong".

Calvin Tong, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

LATE

January 31, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

For Hearing on Thursday, January 31, 2019
9:00 am., Conference Room 016

BY

Richard L. Kam
Co-Founder VivaGrow Systems Inc.

Senate Bill No. 686
Relating to Legalizing Marijuana

TO SENATOR KARL RHOADS AND SENATOR GLENN WAKAI AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

There is a lot written about the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana.

A short list of the pros:

1. Reduce black market in favor of regulated retail distribution
2. Save tax dollars spent on enforcement as a schedule 1 drug
3. Increase State tax revenue collections from the sale of cannabis
4. Positive impact on opioid crisis
5. Many recreational and medicinal uses and benefits

A short list of cons:

1. Increase potential for misuse of a schedule 1 substance
2. Increase in crime associated with a schedule 1 substance
3. Increase drain on law enforcement resources
4. Increased access to people under the age of 21
5. Health impacts of use/overuse of cannabis

Maybe a better question is whether to enhance regulation of cannabis versus whether or not to legalize it? Another substance that had a similar list of pros and cons is alcohol. Today alcohol is a heavily regulated product, but is readily available to the public both in retail stores and online outlets.

Improving regulations is where the State can have the most impact in the fast growing marijuana industry and allow the State and the people of Hawaii to benefit from the experience of states who have both recreational and medical marijuana use through enhanced regulations. It could also decriminalize farming and processing of marijuana creating the potential for new businesses and jobs in Hawaii.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 11:43:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Honolulu County Republican Party **STRONGLY OPPOSES** this bill.

Scientific evidence remains limited. Additionally, a number of the current studies are not controlled clinical trials in which a placebo or alternative medicine is used. Without more of these comparative studies, scientific evidence on the effects of cannabis will remain in question.

The limited evidence does show frequent marijuana use can seriously affect your short-term memory and impair your cognitive ability. Smoking anything, whether it's tobacco or marijuana, can seriously damage your lung tissue, and like tobacco marijuana contains cancer-causing compounds. Marijuana also carries a high risk of abuse and addiction, and is linked as a gateway to other illegal drug use. Marijuana is already being implicated in a high percentage of automobile crashes and workplace accidents. Marijuana is illegal under federal law. It is classified as Schedule I drug in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), alongside heroin. This classification says that the substances have no currently accepted medicinal value.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, GENERAL EXCISE, Legalization of Marijuana for Personal Use

BILL NUMBER: SB 686

INTRODUCED BY: ENGLISH, S. CHANG, DELA CRUZ, GABBARD, J.KEOHOKALO, KIM, K. RHOADS, RUDERMAN, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Nishihara, Shimabukuro

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. The bill as drafted subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes, which is strange because such establishments will be subject to such taxes under the law as it exists today.

SYNOPSIS: As it relates to taxation, the bill adds a new chapter to the HRS, of which section ___-10 states simply, “A marijuana establishment shall be subject to payment of income taxes on gross receipts under chapter 235 and payment of excise taxes under chapter 237 for each transaction conducted by the marijuana establishment.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.

STAFF COMMENTS: In the bill’s preamble, section 1, the legislature “finds marijuana cultivation and sales hold potential for economic development, increased tax revenues, and reduction in crime.” However, proposed HRS section ___-10 states simply that the business of a marijuana establishment would be subject to tax under the Net Income and General Excise Tax laws. Any business, however, is already subject to taxes under those laws if there is no specific exemption.

The Income Tax Law already states, in section 235-2.4(v), that cannabis sales by licensed dispensaries are not subject to the disallowance rules in Internal Revenue Code section 280E. That section presupposes that the law generally applies to cannabis establishments.

The General Excise Tax Law already states, in section 237-24.3(6), that the exemption for sales of prescription drugs does not apply to sales of cannabis or cannabis products even for medicinal purposes. That language presupposes that the law generally applies to cannabis establishments.

Thus, there is no reason to have section ___-10 as it is now drafted.

Digested 1/26/2019

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:28:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

End Prohibition Now. Release all nonviolent offenders immediately.

www.WeAreOne.cc

KAMA'AINA KINGDOM

"My Home is My Castle; My Body is My Temple; Aloha is Pono"

King: Dr. Myron Berney, N.D., L.Ac.
808-392-3366

SB686 SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS

The legislature further finds that the legalization of marijuana for personal or recreational use is a natural, logical, and reasonable outgrowth of the current science of marijuana and attitude toward marijuana.

WE Generally Agree with and SUPPORT the Above Statement supporting the
LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA.

The legislature further finds that marijuana cultivation and sales hold potential for economic development, increased tax revenues, and reduction in crime. The purpose of this Act is to:

1. Decriminalize and regulate small amounts of marijuana for personal use;
2. Establish a licensing scheme for the cultivation, sale, and use of small amounts of marijuana for personal use;
3. Tax marijuana sales in the same manner as state excise taxes; and
4. Subject income derived from marijuana sales to state income taxes.

We SUPPORT the MOTIVATION behind the BILL that LEGALIZATION IS REQUIRED since it is natural, logical, and a reasonable outgrowth of the current science of marijuana and attitude toward marijuana.

As to ITEM 1) ABOVE:

RESERVATIONS: Language should include large amounts for FAMILY FARM production.

MEDICAL SCIENCE DEMANDS THAT MARIJUANA BE LEGALIZED AND TREATED AS A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE NATURAL MEDICINE, GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE [GRAS]. Marijuana is safer than aspirin, LOL.

SCIENTIFICALLY AND MEDICALLY the LAW ENFORCEMENT attitude towards marijuana is FRAUDULENT, ABUSIVE AND CRIMINAL. A COMPLETE PACK OF LIES. NOTHING THEY SAY IS TRUE OR ACCURATE MEDICALLY OR SCIENTIFICALLY. THEY SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE AN EXPERT OPINION OR ANY EDUCATION OR TRAINING TO EVALUATE WHAT THEY ARE TESTIFYING TO IS TRUE OR FALSE. The local saying is, "You can't help stupid." I believe current Federal Law prohibits the use of these federally generated lies.

SB686 SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS

- We SUPPORT THE COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA.
- MARIJUANA IS MORE SIMILAR TO GENSING, ELUTROCOCCUS, ASTRAGALUS.
- MEDICALLY, MARIJUANA PREVENTS OPIOID DEPENDENCY AND OPIOID OVERDOSE;
- MARIJUANA CURES CANCER.
- MERELY BECAUSE MARIJUANA RELIEVES STRESS THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT A VICE CRIME.
- MARIJUANA IS AN ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT, A VITAMIN, A PRECURSOR TO NATURAL NEUROTRANSMITTERS THAT ARE INADEQUATE DUE TO LIFE STYLE CHANGES.
- CHOCOLATE ALSO CONTAINS ENDOCANNABIOLS [just like marijuana!]
- THERE IS NO SOCIAL BENEFIT IN ARRESTING PERSONS USING CHOCOLATE or MARIJUANA.
- PREVENTING PERSONS FROM USING MARIJUANA HARMS THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY.

As to ITEM 2)

WE MUST PROTECT THE LOCAL INDUSTRY AND THE LOCAL FAMILY FARM FROM INVASION BY CORPORATE PLANTATION COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION [like what is happening on the mainland]

The MOST IMPORTANT law we need is to limit the number of plants a maximum of 100 or 200 to protect local family farms. Local family farms produce the highest quality of medicine; the invasion by Commercial Plantations has harmed the quality of medicine available in states with legalized marijuana.

As to ITEM 3)

Most States in America DO NOT TAX food and medicine. That is considered a regressive tax that harms poor and middle-class people by driving up the cost and expense of food and medicine, essential for life. THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD CONSIDER A PROGRESSIVE TAXATION STRUCTURE ON FOOD AND MEDICINE.

MARIJUANA IS NOT A VICE CRIME; MARIJUANA IS AN ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT AND MEDICALLY AN ADAPTOGEN AND POLYCREST.

- ADAPTOGEN means that it balances cell function, organ function; if too high it lowers and if too low it raises.
- POLYCREST means it treats many diseases, almost all [not a panacea cures all problems but almost]

MARIJUANA is not to be exploited and controlled like alcohol or other dangerous drugs since it is not in that class of substances.

As to ITEM 4)

It is reasonable that personal income be treated as personal income and taxed as personal income.

That is logical, reasonable and customary in today's society; personal income is personal income.

CONCLUSION:

SB686 SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS

How these things get worked out is hard to say. It is kind of like baking a cake with too many chefs, or making stew, sometimes there is lots of "beef" LOL but in the end, it got to taste good.

HOUSEKEEPING:

One small point already GRANTED BY THE SUPREME COURT but ignored by the Legislature concerns allowing the transportation under State Law through Airports and other interisland transportation methods.

DELETE: MARIJUANA FROM HRS329 and
GIVE MARIJUANA IT OWN HRS NUMBER.

DISPENSORIES: FREE COMPETITION IN THE HEALTH CARE MARKETPLACE, as required by Federal Law under FTC. Competition stimulates new and improved health care services and cost containment.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:14:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Testifying for Mana Artisan Botanics	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Wakai and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing you today in support of SB686. I have been involved in the cannabis industry for over 20 years having worked to help pass ACT 215 in California and becoming a medical grower shortly after it's enactment. For the past 14 years, I have been a sustainable farmer here on the Big Island of Hawaii growing fruits, macadamia nuts, and raising animals. I also started one of Hawaii's first Hemp businesses and would like the opportunity to expand into additional parts of the cannabis industry. I have seen the positive impact cannabis can have on the family farm if cannabis legislation is crafted appropriately. I believe SB686 is a well-written bill and would only offer a couple of amendments. Firstly, I believe there should be the addition of protecting businesses that would like to engage in cannabis tourism. This would bring additional income potential to family farms. In addition, I want to suggest that all cannabis sold in the state of Hawaii be tested for harmful pesticides and fungicide before they reach the consumer. Currently, there are no allowable pest or fungus treatments approved. Lastly, I would request that there be no requirement for indoor growing added to this bill at any point. This was a major misstep added to the medical dispensary bill that has forced increase use of power and unnecessary consumption to grow cannabis when we have an incredible natural environment that supports the growth of high-grade cannabis under the beautiful sun of this state.

Thank you for hearing this bill and I strongly urge you to support SB686 with amendments.

Mahalo,

Steve Sakala - CEO Mana Artisan Botanics & Owner of Honaunau Farm



Submitted Online: January 29, 2019

Hearing: January 31, 2019

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Opposition to SB 686 Relating to Marijuana

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony in opposition to the legalization 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 we are opposed to the legalization of marijuana for recreational use:

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law.

There exists a vague “truce” between the federal government and states that have legalized marijuana for medical and/or recreational use, whereby federal law enforcement will only prosecute marijuana activity that would be illegal under state law.

Legalization will directly impact our 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 consume it. In Colorado, where recreational use is legal for 21 year olds and older, there is a lag in reporting statistics relating to health concerns. That means it may take years to really understand marijuana’s effect on teenage drug useⁱⁱⁱ. Even though proponents have tried to dismiss this argument, clinical studies continue to prove that marijuana’s easy access can and will hurt our keiki^{iv}.



Page Two
SB 686

The American Medical Association (AMA) remains opposed.

The American Medical Association opposes legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes and endorses warnings emphasizing its dangers for abuse and misuse^v

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

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.

Destruction of the Family Unit

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^{vi}

The bottom line is that by legalizing 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. Legalizing marijuana will open a door that can't be shut once opened. 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.nytimes.com/2014/06/01/us/after-5-months-of-sales-colorado-sees-the-downside-of-a-legal-high.html?_r=0

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

^v AMA Policies D-95.976 and H-95.995

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

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:17:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Powell Ewell III	Testifying for Global loading zone inc	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Legalization so far has been a failure in Hawaii. We missed the boat, the windfall is over. How do we make Hawaii viable for a cannabis farmer? The coffee industry should be our model. Coffee is a plant that produces a regulated drug, caffeine. Cannabis is the new coffee for Hawaii. If we open the doors to recreational cannabis let anyone have a chance to play. The underground growers have and always will be the pulse of cannabis. Unlock the chains and let us make pakalolo famous AGAIN. Hawaii can out produce any state, in the 70z green harvest reports getting 10million plants. Weed that year was under a \$100oz in Oahu. Y? Because 90million plants made it to market. Let us play or we over grow the legal market. Mahaloz for your time

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:36:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Testifying for PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary Chairman Chris Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and committee members,

Patients Without Time does **SUPPORT** HB686, if amendments are made to end the unjust cannabis prohibition.

As you discuss this bill, please, keep in mind, that there is something very important missing in HB686, which discusses current popular attitudes, and economic advantages, but there is an overwhelming silence regarding America's principles of justice, equality, and freedom.

The principles of justice demand that Hawaii's lawmakers must reject the federal marijuana prohibition in its entirety, not just create more EXCEPTIONS to unjust laws.

There is a strong influence to just sweep the racial prejudice and injustice of the last half century under the rug. However, there is the abuse of human freedom, to be addressed.

As the Judiciary committee you have an acute focus on the legal aspects of this cannabis bill. The legal principles, and love of freedom, upon which this country, and state, are founded should be the basis of all your deliberations.

There is no doubt that the cannabis prohibition is based in racial prejudice, and was created by corporate manipulation of the national economy into an oil based economy, instead of a country based on biofuels, ignoring the advice of our countries founding fathers.

Our revered US presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, all promoted the use of cannabis. These great leaders were not criminals; they were noble-hearted cannabis consumers, with a vision of a strong America, with cannabis fields spreading from sea to shining sea.

President Lincoln warned us against prohibitions, but we still learned nothing from the disastrous alcohol prohibition, which lasted 13 crime-filled years. Now, this unjustified

marijuana prohibition has gone on for 50 long- heart-breaking years, devastating millions of lives, and wasting billions of dollars, and successfully halting the production of biofuels, still ignoring the cannabis philosophy of our founding fathers:

"Make the most of Indian hemp seed, and sow it everywhere!" ~ US PRESIDENT George Washington

"Two of my favorite things are sitting on my front porch smoking a pipe of sweet hemp, and playing my Hohner harmonica." ~US PRESIDENT Abraham Lincoln.

Perhaps, America's great forests could have been saved, and the fracking fields that are spreading like wildfire across America could have been avoided, if America had embraced cannabis, instead of vilifying a plant that hopefully can still save our economy, without devastating our environment.

Twenty years ago, compassionate Hawaii lawmakers created vanguard, FIRST IN THE NATION, medical cannabis legislation, by creating EXCEPTIONS to marijuana laws for medical use, which blatantly violated federal law.

Please, blatantly violate federal law again.

The CDC reports that alcohol kills 88,000 Americans every year, and has devastating health, and financial costs. Therefore, why is alcohol legal, and cannabis illegal? How can lawmakers justify approving, even honoring, and promoting, the sale of alcohol, while prosecuting peaceful cannabis consumers as criminals?

For the principles of equality and justice to prevail in Hawaii, the marijuana prohibition should be resoundingly criticized for the abusive, invasive, and unjustified criminalization of hundred's of thousands of Hawaii's citizens and visitors, for consuming a natural herb, which is far safer than Hawaii's world-famous beer and wine microbrews, and Hawaii's gourmet distilled liquors.

If justice is to prevail, the Hawaii Legislature must strongly reject the federal marijuana prohibition as prejudice and unconstitutional. The harm it has caused is immeasurable!

Please, create fair commerce laws for cannabis regulations, which create thousands of small cannabis business entrepreneurs, farmers, processors, packagers, cooks and bakers, trimmers, delivery services, etc...

US President Barack Obama, was a great disappointment to cannabis consumers, when he did not fight for our right to consume cannabis, which he had enjoyed regularly in his college years.

"I inhaled frequently ... that was the point." ~ US PRESIDENT Barack Obama

Obama also said, "I don't think it is more dangerous than alcohol," which is in agreement with the CDC. Please amend HB686 to end the prohibition, and apply regulations that do not exceed the limitations, and fees, placed on highly addictive, and deadly alcohol.

"In terms of marijuana and legalization, I think that should be a state issue, state-by-state. ~ US PRESIDENT Donald Trump

Here is Hawaii's chance to again become the nation's leader in cannabis legislation. Bring justice, equality, and fairness into Hawaii's cannabis laws.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

PATIENTS WITHOUT TIME

Brian Murphy. Director

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Senate Bill 686 Relating to Marijuana
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The Democratic Part of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in **strong support of SB6868 Relating to Marijuana**, which legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity and requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments.

On Nov. 6, 2012, Colorado and Washington became the first two states — and first two jurisdictions in the world — to legalize marijuana for adult use. Two years later Alaska, Oregon and Washington, D.C. followed suit. In 2016 voters in four additional states — California, Massachusetts, Maine and Nevada — also approved ballot measures legalizing marijuana. Ten states and Washington, DC, have now legalized marijuana for recreational use for adults over 21. And 33 states have legalized medical marijuana. Last year, Vermont became the first state to legalize marijuana through its Legislature¹ rather than a ballot initiative when the governor signed the bill into law.

Public attitudes toward marijuana are rapidly changing. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent)² of the American public now supports marijuana legalization. This shift may be, in part, a reflection of the success of state marijuana laws in the first ten states and Washington DC to legalize. In Hawai'i, could be substantially higher. A poll commissioned by Civil Beat in December 2016 indicated 73 percent support legalization³.

A January 2018 report published by the Drug Policy Alliance evaluated the impacts of marijuana legalization so far. It finds that marijuana-related arrests have plummeted, saving states millions of dollars and preventing the criminalization of several thousands of people⁴. Youth marijuana use has not increased. There have been reductions in opioid overdose deaths and untreated opioid use disorders. And, DUI arrests for driving under the influence (of alcohol and other drugs) have declined.

States are filling their coffers with hundreds of millions of dollars in marijuana tax revenues and allocating them for social good. These new tax dollars are funding education, school construction, early literacy, bullying prevention, behavioral health, and alcohol and drug treatment. In addition, the legal marijuana industry is creating jobs. It currently employs approximately 200,000 full and part-time workers across the country. These numbers are expected to climb as more state retail marijuana programs come online.

Despite decades of prohibition, marijuana remains widely consumed and universally available. A 2013 report issued by the ACLU⁵ indicates that marijuana criminalization and aggressive enforcement has been an enormous waste of money and has harmed individuals, communities, and the entire country. Further, a 2016 joint report by the ACLU and Human Rights Watch⁶ establishes that arrests for drug possession, including marijuana, has disparately harmed minorities.

Going forward, states that have legalized marijuana, as well as those considering doing so, should adopt policies focused on repairing the racially disproportionate harms of marijuana criminalization and enforcement.

It is our opinion that this bill will dramatically reduce marijuana arrests and convictions, and generate substantial tax revenues, states that have already legalized marijuana are diminishing many of the worst harms of prohibition.

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jeff McKnight
Chair, HCC Legislative Committee

1. <https://www.businessinsider.com/vermont-state-senate-passes-marijuana-legalization-bill-rebukes-sessions-2018-1>
2. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/243908/two-three-americans-support-legalizing-marijuana.aspx>
3. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/01/hawaii-can-and-should-legalize-cannabis/>
4. http://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/dpa_marijuana_legalization_report_feb14_2018_0.pdf
5. https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/1114413-mj-report-rfs-rel1.pdf
6. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/10/12/every-25-seconds/human-toll-criminalizing-drug-use-united-states>



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The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is opposed to Senate Bill 686. The “current science of marijuana” (SB686 page 3, line 7-8) does NOT support its legalization.

Overview:

Marijuana is very harmful to adolescent health and development. Medical evidence is accumulating that short- and long-term recreational use of marijuana in adolescents can cause mental health problems, decrease lung function, lead to substance abuse disorders, increase use of other illicit drugs, and decrease the likelihood of completing high school or obtaining a college degree.

Facts about Marijuana Use in Adolescents:

- Research shows that the younger an adolescent begins using marijuana, the more likely that a drug addiction or dependence will develop in adulthood.
- Marijuana use in adolescents has been shown to change the structure of the developing adolescent brain and has been shown to result in lower IQ scores, decreased attention, decreased verbal memory and poorer executive functioning.
- Marijuana is linked to poor lung health, and a likelihood of drug dependence in adulthood.
- Recent studies have also shown connections between chronic marijuana use and mental health disorders such as anxiety and schizophrenia.
- Physical effects on coordination and reaction time raise serious concerns about the contribution of marijuana intoxication to motor vehicle injuries and deaths
Cannabis is the most prevalent illicit drug detected in fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims.
- Legalization creates a lucrative and dangerous opportunity for industry to commercialize and market marijuana to children.
- Even with age restrictions, any policy that leads to increased adult use of marijuana is likely to lead to increased adolescent use, despite attempts to restrict sales to underage youth.

Legalization is very different from decriminalization. We suggest postponing legalization and convening a task force to study the health consequences of marijuana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mae S.I. Kyono".

Mae S.I. Kyono, MD FAAP
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter
President

Resources

- AAP Policy–The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update– <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2014-4146>
- AAP Technical Report–The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update–
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2014-4147>
- Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)– <https://learnaboutsam.org/the-costs-of-marijuana-legalization/>
- American Lung Association: Marijuana and Lung Effects–
<http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/marijuana-and-lung-health.html>



January 30, 2019

SB686 Relating to Marijuana; Legalization of Marijuana

SB686 Legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii Opposes SB686

Marijuana Legalization proponents claim that legalizing weed will solve criminal injustices and budget challenges. However, lessons learned, and facts taken from Colorado and other legalized states paint a picture of unexpected costs beyond promised revenues, increased drugged driving deaths, and new law enforcement challenges.

It will not reduce the costs of law enforcement as narcotics officers in Colorado have been busy responding to the 50% increase in illegal grow operations across rural areas in the state (Stewart 2017). Black market weed is driving prices down in California to the point that there's a bill in their legislature to lower the tax burden for marijuana retailers from 15% to 11% and suspend cultivation taxes altogether through 2022.

How many lives would it be worth? The number of drivers in Colorado intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal traffic crashes increased 88% from 2013 to 2015 (Migoya, 2017). Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66% between the four-year averages before and after legalization (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA], 2017). Mothers Against Drunk Driving and other public safety advocates have worked tirelessly to bring the legal blood alcohol content down to .08 in order to keep our families safer. Legalizing marijuana without adequate tools to determine intoxication from pot would be like reversing .08 for the sake of tax revenues. People will die.

Marijuana tax revenue represents less than 1% of Colorado's FY 2017 budget. According to Colorado's US Attorney Bob Troyer, this is more than washed out by the public health, public safety, and regulatory costs of commercialization. We need to look very closely at both sides of the ledger before making a decision.

As far as the social justice /War on Drugs" argument is concerned, legalization is a poor substitute for evidence based criminal justice reform. In 2017 according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission only 92 people were sentenced for marijuana possession in the federal system out of a total of nearly 20,000 drug convictions. That is one-half of 1 percent. Unfortunately, Colorado

COALITION FOR A
Drug-Free Hawaii
Prevention Through Education

marijuana arrests for young African-American and Hispanic youth have increased since legalization (Colorado Department of Public Safety [CDPS], 2016).

Colorado past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older is ranked **3rd** in the nation and is **85 percent higher** than the national average. With our concerns over Hawaii's brain drain, and graduation rates how can we in good conscience consider this to be a wise choice for our kids and families?

Legalization of marijuana is bad public policy. It's bad for kids, public safety and public health, and wrong for Hawaii.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,



Greg Tjapkes
Executive Director

The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii is a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization that provides innovative programs and services that help keep Hawai'i's children and families healthy, strong, and resilient against drug and alcohol abuse.



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

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director
HEARING DATE: January 31, 2019, 9AM
RE: SB686, RELATING TO MARIJUANA, **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) **supports** this measure to legalize adult use cannabis and regulate its sale through a dispensary retail system. Increased social justice, improved public safety, better public health and a stronger economy top the reasons for beginning to reverse the brutal impact of the decades' long, needless criminalization of this substance. These are not the result of wishful thinking or pie-in-the-sky scenarios, they reflect the reality playing out in the growing number of legalization states on the U.S. mainland (including the entire West Coast, Nevada and now the Midwest via Michigan) as well as in Canada and soon in Mexico. While we highlight the opportunities, we must not shy away from addressing understandable concerns regarding challenges such as impaired driving and the impact on youth. The focus of this testimony, however, is on what we may call the social justice components of a fair and equitable legalization.

Two days ago, 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 Hawai'i, by legalizing cannabis, will obviate the need for such action by our own prosecuting attorneys.

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**;
- **Tens of millions of dollars**, extrapolating from the always more than forecast tax revenue in other legalization states, Hawai'i would add to its coffers. Beyond

that income, there would be saving in enforcement, gained productivity for those not marked with the green scarlet letter, not to speak of the promise of a new industry creating jobs and attracting tourists.

Legalizing the personal use possession of cannabis and setting up a retail system are merely the parameters of the system we need. However, 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 legalization program included the types of [social justice policies](#) found in other states, e.g.:

- Expungement of convictions, dismissal of charges - This idea is addressed in at least one Senate bill, [SB606](#) and two House bills, [HB1383](#) & [HB1581](#) introduced this session. While they contemplate a simplified application process, [California last year enacted a law that automates the expungement](#);
- Reinvesting in Impacted Communities – California’s Proposition 64 that legalized adult use cannabis included [Community Reinvestment Grants](#), funded by cannabis taxes, for local governments and non-profits to support communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies by helping with:
 - Job placement;
 - Mental health treatment;
 - Substance use disorder treatment;
 - System navigation services;
 - Legal services to address barriers to reentry;

- Linkages to medical care.
- **Facilitating the entry of communities targeted by the War on Drugs into the for-profit legal cannabis industry.** [How we can avoid what has happened in other states](#) where those communities are excluded by a combination of high initial investment barriers and prohibitions based on criminal records generated by unjust drug policies?

We are hopeful that this bill marks the start of a serious conversation on what system will work best for Hawai'i. Working together, we will get there.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

RE: SB 686 Relating to Marijuana

Aloha mai kakou Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 686 relating to Marijuana.**

SB 686 legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. SB 686 requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments and subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

Legalization of recreational cannabis is emphasized in the DPH Platform under “Legislative Priorities Action Planks.” *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018)*, p. 2, ln. 19.

Further, the Democratic Party of Hawai`i’s Platform (2018) makes it abundantly clear: “DPH supports legalization and regulation of cannabis and other cannabis derivatives. DPH supports research and adoption of successful crime reduction strategies currently implemented in other States and Nations.” *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018)*, p. 13, ln. 44-45.

Currently, all of the Western States and a few central and Eastern States of the United States have legalized and regulated recreational cannabis and other cannabis derivatives. The Nation of Canada has legalized recreational cannabis as the second Nation after Uruguay.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrative Law Judge Francis L. Young ruled on September 6, 1988, that the DEA improperly classified cannabis as a “Schedule I” drug. For this reason, the Federal government should remove cannabis from the list of “Schedule I” Federal

controlled substances and to appropriately regulate recreational cannabis to provide a reasonable pathway for future legalization.

Currently, there are enough policies on adult-use recreational cannabis and laws that allow for legal retail cannabis businesses to exist without uncertainty in many sister states in the United States, and in the nations of Uruguay and in as recent as 2018, Canada. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform 2018, p. 8, Lines 46-49.*

For more than 40 years the “War on Drugs” has fostered violence, increased criminal activity and imposed criminal records on otherwise law-abiding citizens. The prohibition of cannabis serves no public good which incarcerates potentially productive people solely for the use of the natural intoxicant, cannabis, and causes huge disruption to innocent families, and has resulted in corruption of the law enforcement mission to serve and protect. The prohibition has been totally ineffective at keeping cannabis away from our youth and has tragically criminalized and needlessly exposed many of them to the prison system. More than 750,000 individuals in the United States are arrested every year for simple possession. *Resolution GOV 2012-04 Proposed Resolution to Repeal the Prohibition of Cannabis, Democratic Party of Hawai'i (2012).*

Medical cannabis has currently been legalized in thirty-three (33) states and the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico, including 11 which allow recreational (non-medical) cannabis use, with New York soon to be included making the number at twelve (12) states. The thirty-three states that have legalized medical cannabis are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia. In addition, the following States allow restricted use of medical cannabis including: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming rounding the number of medical cannabis states and three Territories to increase the number to forty-nine (49) states and territories. *Bhandari, Smitha, reviewed on November 14, 2018, WebMd,, retrieved from <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/qa/what-us-states-have-legalized-medical-marijuana> on January 7, 2019; National Conference of State Legislators (2018), retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx> on January 7, 2019.*

The eleven (11) States that have legalized recreational cannabis are: Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Washington D.C., and soon to include New York. *Which States Have Legalized Medical Marijuana in 2018? Cannabis Health (2018), Marijuana Legalization 2018: A State-by-State Guide to Legal Weed, (April 18, 2018), retrieved from <https://www.cannahealth.org/medical-marijuana/states/> on January 7, 2019; Litman-Navarro, Kevin, (April 2018), updated by Jeung, Tiffany (Dec. 2018) Inverse, retrieved from <https://www.inverse.com/article/43850-marijuana-legal-weed-states-in-2018> on January 7, 2019.*

Furthermore, cannabis has had a long history of positive spiritual and medical use and has caused far fewer negative health and social impacts than alcohol or tobacco. In the state auditor's December 2010 report, Management Audit of the Department of Public Safety's Contracting for Prison Beds and Services stated, "In Hawaii, spending on incarceration has soared in recent years, despite the economic problems that have been haunting the state." Also saying the corrections budget has increased from \$128 million in 2000 to \$225 million in 2009 and "Higher education has been a clear loser in the nation's choice to fund bars not books." This 2010 report also stated that "there are serious management and procurement problems with the state's contract to hold some 2,000 inmates at Corrections Corporation of America facilities in Arizona."

In June 2011, an alliance of World Leaders declared that the War on Drugs was "a resounding failure" and recommended ending the criminalization of drug users who "do no harm to others!" This alliance included former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Paul Volcker, the late former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and former presidents of Columbia and Mexico.

Legalization would reduce Hawai'i's over-crowded prison population as many inmates were incarcerated for the use of cannabis, incorrectly classified as a dangerous drug, while widely used by the general public, and is legal for its many health benefits as medical cannabis. *Resolution GOV 2012-02 Reducing Prison Population and Pardoning Inmates with Cannabis Charges, Democratic Party of Hawai'i (2012).*

In as early as 2008, 53% of Hawai'i County voters passed an ordinance making the possession of cannabis the lowest law enforcement priority.

An effective distribution system could be set in place to tax, regulate and control cannabis as are alcohol and cigarettes. The enormous amount of resources currently spent trying to control cannabis could be better spent on public education and on education to reduce the demand on all drugs and to treat those that have additions. *Resolution GOV 2012-04 Proposed Resolution to Repeal the Prohibition of Cannabis, Democratic Party of Hawai'i (2012).*

Hawaii and thirty-three other states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories of Guam and Puerto Rico have legalized the use of medical cannabis for the treatment of certain qualifying medical conditions; and the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Washington D.C., have approved the legalization of adult recreational cannabis. These states that have legalized the adult recreational use of cannabis generated approximately \$655,000,000 in combined state tax revenue in 2017.

Beginning in 2011, polls consistently show that a majority Americans are supportive of legalizing cannabis, and many states have already passed legalization ballot initiatives or legislative measures and many more are legalizing cannabis in consistent frequency.

In those states that have fully legalized cannabis, revenue collections have far exceeded initial estimates, Colorado anticipated \$70 million in cannabis tax collections per year, and after a slow initial start, Colorado collections in 2017 were at \$247,368,473, and in 2018 (Jan. to Nov.) the tax collections were at \$244,907,128. *Colorado Department of Revenue (2018)*, retrieved from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/revenue/colorado-marijuana-tax-data> on December 18, 2018.

In Washington, after a slow start to bring the licensing system online, sales are now averaging over \$2 million a day with a revenue possibly reaching \$270 million per year.

If all states legalized and taxed cannabis, states could collectively expect to raise between \$5 billion and \$18 billion per year. It is estimated that the current size of the cannabis market nationally is \$45 billion per year, approximately 0.28 percent of gross domestic product and comprising some 26 million pounds of cannabis consumed per year. *Ekins, Gavin; Bishop-Henchman, Joseph, (2016) Marijuana Legalization and Taxes: Federal Revenue Impact, Tax Foundation.* retrieved from <http://taxfoundation.org/marijuana-tax-legalization-federal-revenue> on November 10, 2018.

In California, Proposition 64 – officially known as the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act, predicts that cannabis sales in California which could be the biggest market for recreational cannabis in the county, is expected to generate more than \$1 billion in tax revenue annually. The law, which took effect in January 2018, states that the proportion must be spent on youth education, prevention and early intervention programs.

Eleven (11) states and Washington D.C. have legalized recreational – or adult use – of cannabis. Most of them have dedicated or planned to allocate a portion of the tax revenue to education or programs that benefit children and youth or both.

In Colorado, one the first of two states to legalize recreational use in 2012, the first \$40 million in excise taxes on wholesale sales annually go to Colorado's Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program, a competitive grant program providing funds to district and charter schools for construction and renovation of facilities. Since fiscal year 2015, 110 Colorado schools have received funds from cannabis revenue through a BEST grant. Revenue from a separate 15% retail sales tax supports early literacy, school health, bullying prevention and dropout prevention programs.

In Nevada, sales tax on wholesale and retail cannabis flow to schools through the state's Distributive School Account – Nevada's school funding formula – instead of to special programs. In Oregon, revenue from recreational cannabis also provides basic funding for schools for expenses such as textbooks and teachers' salaries. In Washington, which legalized recreation use the same year as Colorado in 2012, more than half of the revenue is dedicated toward public health programs, such as expanding Medicaid and preventing substance abuse program.

Massachusetts Revenue Commissioner [Christopher Harding](#) testified before a Joint Ways and Means Committee that Massachusetts should earn between \$44 million and \$82 million in cannabis taxes during fiscal year 2019. *Blake Andrew (2018) Massachusetts expects Marijuana Taxes to meet projections despite delayed start to Retail Sales. The Washington Times., retrieved at <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/dec/5/massachusetts-expects-marijuana-taxes-meet-project/> on November 18, 2018.*

Public preschool models for using the funds already exist in counties in California where voters approved additional taxes on retail cannabis cultivation or manufacturing. In Santa Cruz County, on the central coast, a cannabis business tax will help fund home-visiting programs and improvements in child-care facilities and quality. In Humboldt County, near Oregon, cannabis tax revenue is going toward parent education programs, playgroups and early-childhood mental health consultation. *Jacobson, Linda (2018) Marijuana sales creating new revenue for schools, children's programs, EducationDive. retrieved from <https://www.educationondive.com/news/marijuana-sales-creating-new-revenue-for-schools-childrens-programs/516468>. November 26, 2018.*

Currently, all the West Coast States are devoting some of the revenue to education or programs for children and youth or both. Because of this new potential revenue source for Hawai'i, there comes the ability to finally fund programs intended to improve the well-being of children and families, such as home visiting, preschool quality enhancements and efforts to strengthen young children's resilience.

Furthermore, the State's main economic engine is tourism, and visitor numbers continue to increase year-over-year with a record-breaking 8,900,000 visitors to Hawaii in 2016; and visitors from states with legal adult recreational cannabis account for approximately one-third of the total annual visitors to Hawaii. For this reason, the State's need for a major source of tax revenue for public preschool or public K-12 education or both could partially be funded through our visitor industry.

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports SB 686 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Judiciary.

Mahalo nui loa.
Me ka `oia`i`o,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja
Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com
Ph. (808) 258-8889

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:28:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miles W. Tuttle	Testifying for Kine Bottles	Support	No

Comments:



Thursday, January 31, 2019

Senate Bill 686 Relating to Marijuana
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The Democratic Part of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in **strong support of SB6868 Relating to Marijuana**, which legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity and requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments.

On Nov. 6, 2012, Colorado and Washington became the first two states — and first two jurisdictions in the world — to legalize marijuana for adult use. Two years later Alaska, Oregon and Washington, D.C. followed suit. In 2016 voters in four additional states — California, Massachusetts, Maine and Nevada — also approved ballot measures legalizing marijuana. Ten states and Washington, DC, have now legalized marijuana for recreational use for adults over 21. And 33 states have legalized medical marijuana. Last year, Vermont became the first state to legalize marijuana through its Legislature¹ rather than a ballot initiative when the governor signed the bill into law.

Public attitudes toward marijuana are rapidly changing. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent)² of the American public now supports marijuana legalization. This shift may be, in part, a reflection of the success of state marijuana laws in the first ten states and Washington DC to legalize. In Hawai'i, could be substantially higher. A poll commissioned by Civil Beat in December 2016 indicated 73 percent support legalization³.

A January 2018 report published by the Drug Policy Alliance evaluated the impacts of marijuana legalization so far. It finds that marijuana-related arrests have plummeted, saving states millions of dollars and preventing the criminalization of several thousands of people⁴. Youth marijuana use has not increased. There have been reductions in opioid overdose deaths and untreated opioid use disorders. And, DUI arrests for driving under the influence (of alcohol and other drugs) have declined.

States are filling their coffers with hundreds of millions of dollars in marijuana tax revenues and allocating them for social good. These new tax dollars are funding education, school construction, early literacy, bullying prevention, behavioral health, and alcohol and drug treatment. In addition, the legal marijuana industry is creating jobs. It currently employs approximately 200,000 full and part-time workers across the country. These numbers are expected to climb as more state retail marijuana programs come online.

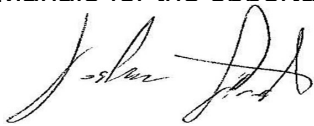
Despite decades of prohibition, marijuana remains widely consumed and universally available. A 2013 report issued by the ACLU⁵ indicates that marijuana criminalization and aggressive enforcement has been an enormous waste of money and has harmed individuals, communities, and the entire country. Further, a 2016 joint report by the ACLU and Human Rights Watch⁶ establishes that arrests for drug possession, including marijuana, has disparately harmed minorities.

Going forward, states that have legalized marijuana, as well as those considering doing so, should adopt policies focused on repairing the racially disproportionate harms of marijuana criminalization and enforcement.

It is our opinion that this bill will dramatically reduce marijuana arrests and convictions, and generate substantial tax revenues, states that have already legalized marijuana are diminishing many of the worst harms of prohibition.

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

1. <https://www.businessinsider.com/vermont-state-senate-passes-marijuana-legalization-bill-rebuked-sessions-2018-1>
2. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/243908/two-three-americans-support-legalizing-marijuana.aspx>
3. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/01/hawaii-can-and-should-legalize-cannabis/>
4. http://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/dpa_marijuana_legalization_report_feb14_2018_0.pdf
5. https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/1114413-mj-report-rfs-rel1.pdf
6. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/10/12/every-25-seconds/human-toll-criminalizing-drug-use-united-states>

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2019

9:00 am

Room 016

SUPPORT for SB 686 - CANNABIS - LEGAL ADULT USE

Aloha Chair Rhoads , Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as the approximately 5,400 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 696 legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity and requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. It also subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. **Cannabis does not belong in the Controlled Substances Act.**

Arrest figures for cannabis possession over the past decade, using numbers provided by the Hawai'i AG to the federal DOJ for its crime report, noted the high numbers of Native Hawaiians and Filipinos. From 2008 -2016, 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.

The numbers reported in CRIME IN HAWAII 2017¹ show that enforcement continues and the number of arrests for adults at 630 and juveniles at 380 per year remains steady. As another economic downturn looms because of the antics taking place in Washington D.C. we must be mindful of not only the economic costs, but the social harms being inflicted on citizens by the government's punitive behavioral laws. Our incarcerated population is finally starting to decrease a little, however, the HCR 85 Correctional Reform Task Force report revealed that 74% of all people incarcerated by the state are serving sentences for the lowest felonies, misdemeanors, violations, petty misdemeanors, and parole and probation violators.

STOP THE CRIMINALIZATION OF CANNABIS

Hawai`i must stop the criminalization of cannabis. Simple possession of cannabis flower or cannabis-derived products and materials must not be the sole basis for removal from public or private property, including eviction of lessees.

Hawai`i should eliminate cannabis from the criminal code and provide that probation and parole cannot be revoked or enhanced due to a positive test for cannabis and that probation and parole authorities are no longer authorized to test for cannabis by a date certain.

Hawai`i should adopt uniform guidance to state and county authorities to expunge cannabis-related arrests and convictions by a date certain and provide retroactive sentencing relief to those incarcerated or on parole or probation due to a cannabis-related offense, including positive urinalysis tests.

As the Pew Research Center has reported, this surplus of drug-related offenders helped create a U.S. prison system that is near capacity, in crisis, and expensive. Citing more than \$80 billion we spent on our prisons in 2010 - with 47% of inmates in jail for drug-related offenses, **former Attorney General Eric Holder justly called overcrowding "ineffective and unsustainable"** in remarks before the American Bar Association that he used to propose alternatives.

Those numbers fail to capture the true human toll for low-level offenders that serve time and leave with stigmas on their records, unable to find work, and more susceptible to falling back on drug sales to make ends meet.

Legalization of marijuana is going to happen. Prohibition has bankrupted governments, destroyed the social fabric of communities and has ripped apart families. Please stop the harm!

We urge the committee to pass this common-sense measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ CRIME IN HAWAII 2017 - <https://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/files/2019/01/Crime-in-Hawaii-2017.pdf>



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February 1, 2019

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

From: Carol McNamee and Arkie Koehl, Public Policy Committee - MADD Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 686 – Relating to Marijuana

I am Carol McNamee, speaking on behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving to offer comments concerning Senate Bill 686, Relating to Marijuana.

Approximately four years ago, the National MADD organization amended its mission by adding, “to help stop *drugged* driving” to the original “to end *drunk* driving.” This was a major step taken after over 10 years of evaluating the problem of impairment caused by substances other than, or in addition to, alcohol. MADD Hawaii applauded this amendment, largely because our chapter has worked on Hawaii statutes relating to drugs and driving since 1986. We witnessed the beginning of the DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) program from its inception and have been impressed with the knowledge and capabilities of this specialized sector of the County Police Departments.

However, MADD, at both the National and Local levels, does not have a specific position on the legalization or decriminalization of Marijuana. Therefore our testimony will be limited to only information and data relating to marijuana and highway safety.

Here is what we know:

1. First, we understand that evaluating impairment relating to drugs is very different from measuring impairment by alcohol. There are no specific numbers to assess levels of impairment as there is with alcohol. However, there is some information which has been collected by national and local agencies that MADD feels is important to understand. In fact we felt it was important enough to hold an October Conference on the subject of Drugs and Driving, focusing especially on younger drivers aged 16 to 28. Speakers at the conference included a researcher and data analyst from the state of Washington, the Chief of Police from Loveland, Colorado who speaks at national conferences across the country, and the Director of the Department of Transportation from New Mexico. In addition, the conference included a discussion of drugs and driving by six local experts in the fields of highway safety, drug enforcement, and drug assessment and treatment. MADD is willing to give any interested legislator a copy of the presentations in a USB flash drive.

2. Our state annual fatality statistics are showing an increasing number of highway deaths connected to the presence of drugs. That includes marijuana. (*Hawaii Department of Transportation – Motor vehicle safety office*)
3. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers and young drivers are at-risk of crashes because of their inexperience. Alcohol, marijuana, and certain other impairing substances put them in heightened risk of being in a crash. (*CDC*)
4. Teens are more likely to drive under the influence of drugs than alcohol.
5. In 2016, FARS (The Fatality Analysis Reporting System of the National Highway Safety Administration – NHTSA), found that drugs were present in 43.6% of fatally injured drivers with a known drug test result – a major increase from 2005 when the drug presence was 27.8%. Marijuana was the most commonly found drug .
6. The combination of marijuana and alcohol can dramatically impair driving performance. (*Clinical Chemistry – 61, 850-869 Also found true in Washington State studies*)

The following is a quote from a Hawaii journal of *Trauma Acute Care Surgical*:

“Our data confirm that over two thirds of fatally injured, THC-positive drivers also consumed alcohol. Alcohol exacerbates the neurocognitive effects of cannabis, particularly regarding impaired driving. This may contribute to the increasing rate of THC-associated fatalities in Hawaii.” (*May 2018*)

7. A recent (9-18) report from Colorado (*The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The impact*) showed that:
 - Since recreational marijuana was legalized (2013), marijuana related traffic deaths increased **151 percent** while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 35 per cent.
 - Since recreational marijuana was legalized, marijuana-related traffic deaths increased from **11.43** percent in 2013 to **21.3** percent in 2017.
 - A Colorado survey conducted by their DOT found that 69 percent of self-identified marijuana users admitted to driving after consuming marijuana.
8. Tests for drugs (other than alcohol) can detect presence of a wide range of drugs, from illegal substances to over the counter and prescribed medications.

MADD is working with our traffic safety partners to better understand and address the problem of impaired driving by all drugs including marijuana and alcohol. Meanwhile, our victim services are available to victims of crashes caused by any impairing substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:39:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Schneider	Testifying for Hawaii Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am a pediatrician with an extensive background in child abuse and neglect, having served as the Medical Director of the Kapi'olani Child Protection Center for 12 years. I am opposed to Senate Bill 686. The "current science of marijuana" (SB686 page 3, line 7-8) does NOT support its legalization.

Overview:

Marijuana is very harmful to adolescent health and development. Medical evidence is accumulating that short- and long-term recreational use of marijuana in adolescents can cause mental health problems, decrease lung function, lead to substance abuse disorders, increase use of other illicit drugs, and decrease the likelihood of completing high school or obtaining a college degree.

Facts about Marijuana Use in Adolescents:

- Research shows that the younger an adolescent begins using marijuana, the more likely that a drug addiction or dependence will develop in adulthood.
- Marijuana use in adolescents has been shown to change the structure of the developing adolescent brain and has been shown to result in lower IQ scores, decreased attention, decreased verbal memory and poorer executive functioning.
- Marijuana is linked to poor lung health, and a likelihood of drug dependence in adulthood.
- Recent studies have also shown connections between chronic marijuana use and mental health disorders such as anxiety and schizophrenia.
- Physical effects on coordination and reaction time raise serious concerns about the contribution of marijuana intoxication to motor vehicle injuries and deaths *Cannabis is the most prevalent illicit drug detected in fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims.*

- Legalization creates a lucrative and dangerous opportunity for industry to commercialize and market marijuana to children.
- Even with age restrictions, any policy that leads to increased adult use of marijuana is likely to lead to increased adolescent use, despite attempts to restrict sales to underage youth.

Legalization is very different from decriminalization. I urge you to postpone legalization and convene a task force to study the health consequences of marijuana.

Sincerely,



Victoria Schneider MD, member of Hawaii Chapter AAP



Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and committee members,

I would like to first thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 686. The legalization, regulation and taxation of adult-use recreational cannabis is common sense drug policy reform that is long overdue.

Countless other states (and countries at this point) have legalized responsible adult use marijuana and reaped the financial benefit. It is time for Hawaii to move toward more progressive drug laws. Prohibition has resulted in mass incarceration and over policing. The consequence being over populated prisons with native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders disproportionality represented. In addition to which, despite the aggressive enforcement, prohibition has failed to reduce marijuana use.

There is currently an opioid epidemic sweeping our nation and marijuana legalization has been linked to lower rates of opioid related harm. In states with legal access to marijuana, overdose death rates are almost 25 percent lower than in states with no legal access.

By legalizing and regulating marijuana for responsible adult use the state of Hawaii could save and raise millions of dollars. We can save money by putting less people in jail for marijuana related offenses and raise money by taxing marijuana sales. The state of Hawaii spends over \$50,000 a year to house an inmate. In the 2016-2017 tax year Marijuana sales in Washington generated \$315 million and \$70 million in Oregon.

The legalization and regulation of responsible adult use marijuana is long overdue and I am grateful that our law makers are taking the time to hear and understand why.

Please support SB686

Thank you,

Destiny Brown

Young Progressives Demanding Action

Social Justice Action Committee Chair

(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)

To Karl Rhoads,

This letter represents Bobby Benson Center's position against the passage of bill SB686 regarding the legalization of marijuana in the State of Hawaii.

- Marijuana is the most frequently used illicit drug by adolescents in the United States. A large-scale national sample of youth (found that 15% of adolescents have tried marijuana by 8th grade and 45% report use by 12th grade. Approximately 17% of 10th graders and 23% of 12th graders reported past month use. These data also suggest that rates of use for 10th and 12th graders are increasing, with rates of daily use the highest they have been in the past 30 years. In addition, youth who report marijuana use typically use regularly. For example, among those aged 12 to 17 who reported using in the past year, 64% reported using more than 11 times in the past year (i.e., about once per month or more) and nearly one third of users reported using more than 100 times in the past year (Pedersen Miles, Osilla, Ewing, Hunter & D'Amico, 2015).
- Adolescent marijuana use is a major public health concern. Use is often associated with consequences such as poor school performance, neuropsychological performance deficits, and further use of other illicit drugs, such as heroin and cocaine. Marijuana use in adolescence has also been linked with future problems in young adulthood, including increased risk for dependence and difficulties with school.
- Marijuana is reported as one of the main substances used by youth when presenting for treatment admissions, emergency room admissions, drug screenings following arrests, and autopsies Further, heavy marijuana use during adolescence may affect the trajectory of normal brain development, and these abnormalities may persist beyond one month of abstinence (Pedersen et al, 2015).
- There is substantial research linking marijuana use in adolescence with symptoms and diagnoses of depression and anxiety in young adulthood. Youth aged 12 to 17 who reported a major depressive episode in the past year were more likely to report past year marijuana use (26%) than those without a major depressive episode (Pedersen et al, 2015).
- Adolescents with criminal offense histories are more likely to experience mental health concerns related to depression and anxiety than those without offense histories, and teenagers involved in the legal system are typically at risk for more severe mental health symptomatology. Studies have also shown that increased mental health symptoms are often linked with more substance use in adolescence, which could lead to repeated offenses. Indeed there is a reciprocal relationship between substance use and delinquent behavior such that both appear to influence each other (Pedersen et al, 2015).
- Adolescence is a period when many developmental changes are occurring. It is a time when a young person's intellectual capacities expand and their friends and peers become increasingly influential. Early initiation of marijuana use can have an impact on the following:
 - Memory, Attention and Learning
 - Early and continued use of marijuana can:

- Affect memory, attention and ability to think clearly, making it difficult to concentrate, learn new things, and make sound decisions. Affect movement and balance while intoxicated;
 - School Performance
 - Increased absences from school;
 - Increasing the risk of dropping out without graduating.
 - In Washington State, the Healthy Youth Survey results for 2012 found that, statewide, high school students who used marijuana were more likely to get lower grades in school (Cs, Ds, or Fs) compared to those that don't use.
- Problematic Behaviors
 - Studies have shown that those who use marijuana from an early age are at risk of later developing problems, characterized by social disadvantage, behavioral difficulties, and problematic peer affiliations.
 - A 2008 longitudinal study of heavy cannabis users from ages 14 to 25 in a New Zealand birth cohort found that increasing cannabis use in late adolescence and early adulthood is associated with a range of adverse outcomes in later life. High levels of cannabis use are related to poorer educational outcomes, lower income, greater welfare dependence and unemployment, and lower relationship and life satisfaction. These findings add to a growing body of knowledge regarding the adverse consequences of heavy cannabis use. However, this study primarily established correlation rather than causality (Ferguson & Boden, 2008).
 - Using marijuana at an early age is also linked to higher risk taking behavior such as:
 - Higher levels of leaving the family home;
 - Immature sexual activity, which can result in unplanned pregnancy
 - Increased risk of driving while under the influence of marijuana; marijuana use more than doubles a driver's risk of being in an accident
 - Higher levels of criminal behavior such as motor vehicle theft and break-and-enter offences to pay for drug use (<http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/factsheets/adolescents.htm>).
 - It is important to remember that smoking marijuana can have side effects, making it difficult to develop as a medicine. For example, it can harm lung health, impair judgment, and affect

memory. Side effects like this might outweigh its value as a medical treatment, especially for people who are not very sick. Another problem with smoking or eating marijuana plant material is that the ingredients can vary a lot from plant to plant, so it is difficult to get an exact dose. Until a medicine can be proven safe and effective, it will not be approved by the federal government. But researchers continue to extract and test the chemicals in marijuana to create safe medicines (<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/marijuana>).



Hawai'i

Committees: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, January 31, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 686, Relating to Marijuana

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of S.B. 686**, which seeks to legalize, tax, and regulate small amounts of cannabis for adult use. Legalizing cannabis for people over 21 years of age or older and regulating and taxing it in a manner similar to alcohol will (1) serve as a meaningful step towards ending Hawai'i's participation in the failed war on drugs; (2) reduce the number of unreasonable arrests for cannabis possession and generate significant new revenue for Hawai'i that can be reinvested in communities that have been harmed by the war on drugs; and (3) reduce the targeting of communities disproportionately impacted by Hawai'i's current cannabis laws. **While we support the measure, we respectfully request that the Committee amend S.B. 686 to provide a path for expungement and to reinvest tax revenue to help the communities most harmed by past enforcement of cannabis laws.**

S.B. 686 provides a safe and smart alternative to cannabis prohibition.

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 penalties for low-level cannabis possession 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.

S.B. 686 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.

S.B. 686 will reduce the number of unreasonable arrests for cannabis possession in our already bloated criminal justice system.

In 2017, there were 627 arrests for cannabis possession in Hawai'i.¹ 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 cannabis possession will keep people out of jail for probation and

¹ State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Research & Statistics Branch, *Crime in Hawaii 2017, A Review of Uniform Crime Reports*, available at <https://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/files/2019/01/Crime-in-Hawaii-2017.pdf>.

parole violations, 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 more wisely used for efforts that would *actually* increase public safety.

Legalizing the possession of small amounts of cannabis 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 males less than 25 years of age and people of native Hawaiian descent. These groups are arrested in numbers disproportionate to their share of the population.²

We recommend S.B. 686 be amended to provide expungement of criminal records and to reinvest tax revenue to help the communities most harmed by past enforcement of cannabis laws.

While the ACLU of Hawai‘i supports this bill, we respectfully request that the Committee amend the measure to incorporate the following:

- 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. This measure should provide for the automatic or expedited expungement of criminal records for those whose records are tied to behavior that would be legal under this new law.
- A portion of the tax revenue received under this law should be reinvested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs.

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.

² 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.



LATE

SB 686, RELATING TO MARIJUANA

JANUARY 31, 2019 · SENATE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports SB 686, relating to marijuana, which legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity, requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments, and subjects marijuana establishments to excise and income taxes.

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

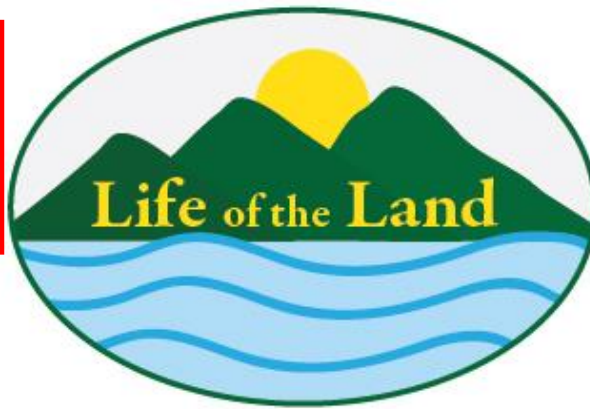
of deviancy (increased usage beyond average consumption rates). A more stark statistical correlation exists between increased alcohol consumption and violent crime, including child and intimate partner abuse, yet, again, no one is introducing, much less considering the merits of, limiting the personal 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, legalizing 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.

Finally, it is estimated that **legalizing marijuana could generate \$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. Legalizing cannabis is not just legally sound, then, but economically progressive.

LATE



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2019
9:00 am
Room 016

SB 686 Cannabis – Legal Adult Use

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 47 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The U.S. spends more than \$40 billion each year on its failed drug war. More than half-a million people were arrested for possessing marijuana in 2017. Although drug use is fairly consistent across racial groups, non-whites get arrested and convicted in far higher numbers.¹ Hawai`i arrested 8,000 adult Hawai`i residents from 2008-16 for possessing marijuana.² We are creating a stigmatized class for simple possession of a non-dangerous drug, while allowing the sale of cigarettes, alcohol and armor piercing weapons. Something is clearly wrong.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

¹ <http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/drug-war-statistics>

² CRIME IN HAWAI`I 2017 - <https://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/files/2019/01/Crime-in-Hawaii-2017.pdf>



LATE

To:

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY](#)

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, /Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING SB 686 Relating to Marijuana

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol 415 South Beretania St.

Dear Committee Members:

This testimony will limit itself to the assertion of proposed SB 686 that legalization of marijuana holds potential for economic development, increased tax revenues and reduction in crime. Decriminalization is not legalization.

Science and evidence should guide our approaches to marijuana laws, not ideology or profit.

Legalization is a serious mistake. No amount of tax revenue can outweigh the social costs citizens will be forced to pay.

Black Market~

States that have legal marijuana continue to see a thriving black market and increasing rates of youth drug use, providing evidence that this theory of “tax and regulate” does not fare well in real life.

People like going for the cheaper product. Untaxed marijuana on the underground market will always be attractive. And what about kids under 21, or those looking for pot after opening hours? People don’t just smoke marijuana from 9 to 7.

Also, drug cartels are widely diversified businesses that make money trafficking in humans, cocaine, heroin, meth, extortion, intellectual property theft, etc. Marijuana is a small portion of their overall business. It would be naïve to suggest that cartels would cease to exist even if marijuana legalization eliminated the black market.

A leaked report from Oregon State Police found that the black market there has greatly increased since the state legalized marijuana, including significant trafficking operations to states that have not legalized marijuana as well as foreign countries. And the Colorado Attorney General’s office said that legalization “has inadvertently helped fuel the business of Mexican drug cartels... cartels are now trading drugs like heroin for marijuana.”

CRIME • The crime rate in Colorado have increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation since legalization (Mitchell, 2017), with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation reporting an 8.3% increase in property crimes and an 18.6% increase in violent crimes (Colorado Bureau of Investigation [CBI], 2017). • A study funded by the National Institutes of Health showed that the density of marijuana dispensaries was linked to increased property crimes in nearby areas (Freisthler, Gaidus, Tam, Ponicki, & Gruenewald, 2017). •

The Boulder Police Department reported a 54% increase in public consumption of marijuana citations since legalization (Boulder Police Department [BPD], 2017). •

In Alaska, misdemeanor and vehicle thefts have dramatically increased since legalization. Alaska's national ranking for larceny moved up from 16th to 2nd and motor vehicle theft from 16th to 5th after marijuana became legal (Alaska Department of Public Safety [ADPS], 2016). •

Oregon's national ranking went from 17th to 11th for property crime, 12th to 7th for larceny, and 13th to 8th for motor vehicle theft, from 2014 to 2016, respectively. (Disaster Center, n.d.).

TRENDS IN CRIME SINCE LEGALIZATION

Apart from black market activity, legalization has potentially exacerbated other crimes as well. Though it cannot be said that crime has increased because of legalization, some trends are worth noting. The crime rate in Colorado has increased 11 times faster than the rest of the nation since legalization (Mitchell, 2017), with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation reporting an 8.3% increase in property crimes and 18.6% increase in violent crimes (CBI, 2017). Along with the increase in property crimes, the Boulder Police Department has reported a 54% increase in marijuana public consumption citations since legalization (BPD, 2017). According to Alaska law enforcement reports, misdemeanor and vehicle thefts have dramatically increased since legalization. Alaska's national ranking for property crimes moved from 21st to 3rd and burglaries from 31st to 14th after legalization. Alaska's national ranking for larcenies also moved up from 16th to 2nd and vehicle thefts from 16th to 5th after marijuana became legal (ADPS, 2016). Since legalization in 2014 to 2016, Oregon's national ranking went from 17th to 11th for property crime, 12th to 7th for larceny, and 13th to 8th for motor vehicle theft (Disaster Center, n.d.).

THE WORKPLACE • Marijuana urine test results in Washington and Colorado are now double the national average (Quest Diagnostics, 2016). • Insurance claims have become a growing concern among companies in legalized states (Hlavac & Easterly, 2016)

IMPACT OF LEGALIZATION ON THE WORKFORCE

Marijuana legalization has had serious ramifications for businesses across legalized states. Increased marijuana availability and use has also increased the number of employees testing positive for marijuana in the workforce. In the 3-year period following legalization in Colorado and Washington (2013– 2016), positive oral-fluid test results for marijuana use increased almost 75%, from 5.1 to 8.9 percent (Quest Diagnostics, 2016). Marijuana urine test results in Washington and Colorado are now double the national average (Quest Diagnostics, 2016).

This growing demand for marijuana has made it difficult to find employees who can pass a preemployment drug test. Colorado construction company GE Johnson was forced to hire out-of-state construction workers because too many Coloradans were failing preemployment drug tests ("Drug use a problem," 2015).

A study conducted in Washington during 2011–2014 found that the percentage of work-related injuries and illnesses was significantly higher (8.9%) among marijuana users than non-users (Marcum, Chin, Anderson, & Bonauto, 2017). Insurance claims have become a growing concern among companies in legalized states because if marijuana use is allowed or drug testing ignored, employers are at risk of liability claims when a marijuana-related injury or illness occurs onsite (Hlavac et al., 2016). The issue is further complicated by pro-marijuana advocates who are pushing to eliminate workplace drug testing policies—essentially stating that regardless of the outcome, employees should be permitted to use marijuana without the risk of professional consequences.

IMPAIRED DRIVING • The number of drivers in Colorado intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal traffic crashes increased 88% from 2013 to 2015 (Migoya, 2017). Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66% between the four-year averages before and after legalization (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA], 2017). • Driving under the influence of drugs (DUIDs) have also risen in Colorado, with 76% of statewide DUIDs involving marijuana (Colorado State Patrol [CSP], 2017). • Washington State experienced a doubling in drugged driving fatalities in the years following legalization (Johnson, 2016). • In Oregon, 50% of all drivers assessed by drug recognition experts (DRE) in 2015 tested positive for THC (OLCC, 2015). 7 MARIJUANA PO

COSTS RELATED TO HIGHLY POTENT TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC) BURNS According to the Oregon Burn Center, Butane Hash Oil explosions have resulted in at least 30 burn victims between July 2015 to July 2016, costing about \$5,154,202 in total treatment costs (Oregon State Police-Drug Enforcement Section [OSPDES], 2017). The increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits includes a growing number of Butane Hash Oil (BHO) burn victims. BHO is a marijuana concentrate that yields a THC potency of 70–99% and is highly lucrative. Production involves forcing raw marijuana and butane into a reaction chamber, which creates a highly combustible liquid that easily explodes when introduced to an ignition source. According to the Oregon Burn Center, BHO explosions have resulted in at least 30 burn victims between July 2015 to July 2016, costing about \$5,154,202 in total treatment costs (OSPDES, 2017). In 2018, the U.S. Attorney in Oregon reported that Oregon production of BHO resulted in six separate lab explosions in the first half of 2017 (Williams, 2018). The Oregon State Police claims that the growth of BHO lab operations since legalization is "... arguably the most immediate cannabis threat facing the state." (OSPDES, 2017)

HOSPITAL AND ER VISITS • In Colorado, calls to poison control centers have risen 210% between the four-year averages before and after recreational legalization (Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center [RMPCD], 2017 and Wang et al., 2017). Washington has seen a 70% increase in calls between the three-year averages before and after legalization (Washington State Office of Financial Management [WSOFM], 2017). • In Colorado, the annual rate of marijuana-related emergency room visits increased 35% between the years 2011 and 2015 (CDPHE, 2017). • Central Oregon hospitals saw a nearly 2,000% increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana poisoning, with 434 marijuana-related emergency visits in January 2016 alone, compared to a maximum of 32 visits per month prior to legalization (Kent, 2016). • One hospital in Bend, Oregon, also had an increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits from 229 in 2012 to 2,251 in 2015; the average number of marijuana-related emergency room visits per month in the same hospital in 2016 was 552 (Hawryluk, 2017).

MARIJUANA EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS HAVE ALSO INCREASED AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Central Oregon hospitals saw a nearly 2,000% increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana poisoning, with 434 marijuana-related emergency visits in January 2016 alone, compared to a maximum of 32 visits per month prior to legalization (Kent, 2016). One hospital in Bend, Oregon, had an increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits from 229 in 2012 to 2,251 visits in 2015, while the average number of marijuana-related emergency room visits per month in the same hospital in 2016 was 552 cases (Hawryluk, 2017). The increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits includes a growing number of Butane Hash Oil (BHO) burn victims. BHO is a marijuana concentrate that yields a THC potency of 70–99% and is highly lucrative. Production involves forcing raw marijuana and butane into a reaction chamber, which creates a highly combustible liquid that easily

explodes when introduced to an ignition source. According to the Oregon Burn Center, BHO explosions have resulted in at least 30 burn victims between July 2015 to July 2016, costing about \$5,154,202 in total treatment costs (OSPDES, 2017). In 2018, the U.S. Attorney in Oregon reported that Oregon production of BHO resulted in six separate lab explosions in the first half of 2017 (Williams, 2018). The Oregon State Police claims that the growth of BHO lab operations since legalization is "... arguably the most immediate cannabis threat facing the state." (OSPDES, 2017)

Despite the claims of pot-industry lobbyists that legalization will not affect young adult and youth use, the data show people are radically increasing their rate of consumption. One recent study showed increased use by 14–18 year olds with newer forms of consumption—vaping and edibles (Borodovsky, Lee, Crosier, Gabrielli, Sargent, & Budney, 2017). About 62% of Oregon 11th graders have reported "very easy" access to marijuana, with many of them reporting marijuana acquisition coming primarily from friends (OHA, 2016). Additionally, marijuana dispensary density has been linked to more use among youth, with 16% of 11th graders reporting marijuana use in areas with less dispensary density compared to 23% of the same age group reporting use in more retail-dense areas (Hatch, 2017). Another study conducted in Oregon found that as medical marijuana users and growers increased in a community, marijuana use among youth also increased, in part because of social acceptance of the drug (Paschall, Grube, & Biglan, 2017).

The most recognized survey on the prevalence of drug use among U.S. households is the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). According to NSDUH data, marijuana use in all four legalized states and the District of Columbia has continued to increase since legalization. Unfortunately, state studies such as the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) have muddied the waters. This particular study has been rejected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) due to its unsound methodology. The study omits some of the largest counties in the state (e.g. Jefferson, Douglas, and El Paso counties) and has a standard of statistical significance set much higher than average, meaning only differences in use rates far greater than normal are recognized as significant (Murray, 2016).

Large percentages of Americans still oppose marijuana legalization, and there are many Americans who feel that they are being shouted down in the debate about marijuana.

Better laws might remove criminal sanctions for low-level marijuana use, but the overall objective of drug policy should be to discourage drug use. Any proposed laws removing criminal penalties must be paired with requisite investments in prevention, treatment, and drugged driving enforcement. Decriminalization is not legalization.

Laws discouraging drug consumption work to keep rates of use down. support evidence-based reforms that discourage use while avoiding criminal penalties. There are a wide array of smart-on-crime alternatives that remove criminal penalties for smoking marijuana including drug courts, pre-trial diversion programs, and probation reform. Communities are healthier and safer when these reforms are coupled with prevention and treatment programs.

Sincerely,

Paul Mossman

LATE



Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Board President, Drug Policy Action Group

DATE: January 31, 2019, 9AM

RE: **SB 686 -- SUPPORT**

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai, & Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG) strongly supports SB 686, which establishes a basic framework for the taxation and regulation of adult-use use cannabis in Hawaii.

The taxation and regulation of adult-use cannabis will generate income and excise taxes that will augment the legislature's ability to satisfy its year-to-year budgetary priorities. Recent domestic and international developments in the cannabis industry indicate that a system of workable regulations can provide new opportunities for prospective investors and local business owners to facilitate well-paid regular employment for kamaaina in the production and distribution of a range of quality consumer products. Once established, these businesses can attract an increased level of capital investment that might not otherwise be available to Hawaii's economy.

In the short-term, the availability of legal cannabis products will be attractive to many visitors from domestic and international jurisdictions that do not permit legal adult use. This is currently the case with Hawaii residents who visit Nevada and the West Coast.

As the legislature moves forward in its deliberations, it should carefully consider social justice measures to ensure a meaningful level of participation for those who have been

marginalized and criminalized through cannabis prohibition and the larger drug war. The current regime of cannabis prohibition exacerbates socioeconomic challenges faced by many already impacted by social determinants of health. Arrest data in Hawaii over the past decade indicates that Native Hawaiians and Filipinos are disproportionately impacted by overcriminalization. A misdemeanor conviction features many “collateral consequences” that impact an individual’s ability to obtain employment, housing, and education. Cannabis prohibition also needlessly raises the costs to Hawaii’s criminal justice system, where terms of probation or parole are lengthened apart from a more calibrated determination of increased safety risks to the community. Prolonged periods of probation or parole do increase the likelihood of a return to jail or prison at great cost to state taxpayers.

While cannabis use is not entirely devoid of individual health risks, its use does not produce the injury, illness, and death resulting from regular or problematic use of alcohol or tobacco, two widely used licit substances that are not included in the federal Controlled Substances Act. As a general matter, DPAG supports evidence-based education for all persons, from students to seniors, that includes science-based information on alcohol and other drugs and the promotion of resilience through harm reduction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of a timely reform. This state can uniquely position itself to participate in an emerging industry that will likely experience protracted growth on a domestic and international basis in the coming decades.



January 30, 2019

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Judicial Committee
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, Judicial Committee
Senator Donovan Delacruz, Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Members of the Joint Senate Committee

FROM: Tan Yan Chen, Board Chair, and Michael Takano, Legislative Committee Chair, Hawai'i Educational Association for Licensed Therapeutic Healthcare (HEALTH)

RE: TESTIMONY RELATED TO SENATE BILL (SB 686)

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran and committee members:

HEALTH is the statewide trade association comprised of Hawai'i's eight licensed medical cannabis dispensaries under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 329-D. As an organization, we take no position on legalization of adult recreational use of cannabis, however, this bill has raised multiple concerns among our members.

The Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety have overseen Hawai'i's medical cannabis dispensary program since it was established more than three years ago. SB 686 proposes to establish a new licensing program under the Department of Taxation. Cultivation, manufacturing and sales of cannabis for adult recreational use will inherently involve very complex issues related to public health and public safety. The Department of Taxation is not prepared to effectively manage these issues. In fact, existing cannabis licensees still have no access to banking services in Hawai'i and DOTax has had to establish special measures for collecting General Excise Tax from the seven operating dispensaries.

Regulatory delays caused Hawai'i's current medical cannabis dispensary program to start slowly. Twenty months after the eight licensees were announced, we still await opening of the final licensed dispensary on Hawai'i Island and there remains just one fully-certified lab to test cannabis and manufactured cannabis products in the state. Multiple regulatory barriers and other factors have hindered statewide patient growth to around two percent per month. At this time, no licensee is operating more than one dispensary although DOH regulations allow

for each licensee to operate up to three retail locations. In addition, patients visiting from out-of-state have yet had an opportunity to visit a Hawai'i dispensary. It is evident the medical cannabis program has lacked sufficient time and support to mature into the healthy industry envisioned by legislators when they passed the dispensary program law.

Motivated by the promise of considerable new tax revenue, other states have rushed into legalization of adult recreational use of cannabis without fully understanding, appreciating or preparing for consequences related to public health and public safety. We believe Hawai'i would benefit from a comprehensive study about the potential benefits and drawbacks of adult recreational use of cannabis in the Aloha State prior to any decision. The stakes are much too high for this decision to be based solely upon popular opinion and/or the need for new sources of tax revenue.

HEALTH is available as a resource to legislators and we stand ready to participate in a Working Group to review research findings, reports and other data that will help legislators to fully understand the pros and cons of legalized adult recreational use in states that have gone before us.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 5:07:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I have worked and currently work in the cannabis industry here on Oahu. My job provides a flexible schedule and they pay 100% of my health insurance. I have been smoking for 30 years and have no sign of any tar build up in my lungs. I have a fundamental belief that cannabis cures a number of ailments that is now being backed up by science. Not only has this beautiful plant been criminalized to push pharmaceutical agendas the legalizing of it will pour millions of \$\$\$\$ into our crumbling infrastructure and failing school systems. On a personal note I know that I would rather deal with someone that has smoked some weed than a drunk person but I am totally biased. Please pass SB686

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 5:17:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg and Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 5:39:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris johnson	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators!

When considering legalizing marajuana. please attempt to put in restrictions that will protect the rights of those who do not like or want to be around pot or pot users, especially in public housing and everywhere people are smoking pot.

As a Registered Nurse and the widow of a man who committed suicide and who had a 24/7 addiction to pot and other drugs., i have to ask you to please consider what you are doing to those who have to put up with the crazyness that can take over a family when a member is on pot.

It stinks, it is secondhand smoke (if it is not injected in food)..

The stoned person is not always safe to be around especially driving and in the care of children.

The paranoia and changes in mood and consciousness can have detrimental effects on everyone who has to put up with this.

There is little difference from living with an alcoholic than living with a pot head.

I know people claim (especially those who use and abuse pot) that it is safe and doesnt harm anyone , but that is not true at all..

I know that profit over people is the main reason for the push for legalizing pot.

So it seems like you will ram it through with no concern for others..?

Right now i live in a "affordable housing " building with 8 units..

I was told and signed a lease that there is absolutely NO SMOKING of ANYTHING including POT allowed here... and yet the man next door ignores the rules and smokes it all day and night and the stink alone comes through the vent system into my aparment.. making me sick...

In order for him to be confronted with his breaking the law and rules.. we have to witness him smoking it and take a photo.. otherwise nothing can be done.

He has tried to hit 2 women with his car.. he has thrown coconuts and hoses at others.. He is violent and severely paranoid and mentally unstable...

The police are here almost weekly for something he has done to a person or animal.

They can't do anything about the pot because he has a medical card.. so they say the management company has to go after him because he is breaking THEIR rules and lease.. and they say.. they can't be the ones to confront him because they need a third party to witness and photograph the pot..

Do you see what i am getting at???

You may think you are helping sick people feel better, when in fact you are making healthy people sick and crazy..

PLease.. remember those who don't smoke pot or want anything to do with those who do and consider all the laws and rules that need to be changed and adressed so that the human rights and rights of peace and safety of others are respected..

I spoke with a Kihei Police officer about the situation.. He agrees with me that people with medical pot cards who live in apartments and condos should only be allowed to eat the medical pot in cookies or food.. that NO smoking of it should be allowed in public housing places.

He said where he lives he and his children have to put up with the same thing and they smell it coming from people and places around them.

Mahalo!!..

Christine Johnson

2170 South Kihei Rd

Kihei, 96753

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 9:30:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 10:52:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelby Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. I will not be able to attend the hearing.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/26/2019 2:38:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passage of this bill to legalize the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. This is a public health concern similar to impairment driving from the effects of smoking marijuana at high levels as to driving on the road from drinking alcohol above the legal limits.

We don't need to have more motor vehicle injuries or death to pedestrians and other drivers on the road from another substance that creates impairment of individuals while driving vehicles on the road. I ask the legislators to seek another source of revenue instead of making marijuana permanent for use, for taxation purposes. Please consider the impact to the community in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against SB 686.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 6:54:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terrence Tenjoma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Studies behind marijuana have shown that it is not a dangerous substance. There's a reason why it is used as a healing supplement. Do the right thing and legalize it for personal use, like eleven other states have.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 7:15:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Pascatore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill SB686, for the legalization of marijuana. This drug has been proven to have many health benefits. As a recreational drug, it has been proven to be much less harmful than alcohol. The State of Hawaii will also benefit from taxing this drug.

Thanks for your consideration,

Linda Pascatore, MS Ed, 3769 Akea Road, Hanapepe, HI 96716

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 7:18:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

and the decrimilization and release of those people now in prison for this.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 8:54:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Kwan Yuk Chan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why not support such a bill? Netherlands did if decades ago and people are happier, nations are wealthier and lower crime rate. Use the tax generated for education and research on the benefits of marijuana. Fund CTAHR experiment stations with the tax so the State becomes more food secure and sustainable. Thanks for those who introduce the Bill.

Mahalo.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 9:10:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucy Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Legalizing and regulating marijuana will give the state control over a substance similar to alcohol; fewer victimless crimes, and less organized crime.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 9:26:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Duncan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Although I am not a user of marijuana, I do know many people in the community that use marijuana for recreation, for their health needs, and for their stress of everyday life.

When I was undergoing cancer treatment I had many people offer me marijuana that I was very surprised were users. Even though I turned their offers down, it opened my eyes to the fact that many many people in our community that do wonderful things and very good work in our community use marijuana recreationally or otherwise. I do not believe it should be a crime for this use. In my life I have seen many things happen due to alcohol abuse including the death of my father. I do not feel that marijuana causes the same harm to our society that alcohol abuse does. If alcohol is legal it makes no sense whatsoever that marijuana remains illegal.

Our islands have many other needs than having police enforce arrests of users of marijuana and I urge lawmakers to recognize the use has been there for many many years and its time to make it legal.

Sincerely

Regina Duncan

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 10:10:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Schemp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a 40 year old female that lives on Kauai. I do not smoke marijuana but I think it should be made legal for those that would like to smoke it, eat it or whatever. Alcohol is a much riskier substance in my opinion. And it's crazy that we have people in jail for using marijuana. I'd really love to see it taxed high and the money used for education and mental health services.

Currently from what I see if anyone wants to use marijuana they very easily can, especially minors. They all already have access to it. There will be very little change to what is happening currently. Let's end this insane prohibition. Let's take the money from dealers and put it to great use.

Thank you

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 12:15:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Winningham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 686 Relating to marijuana. Mahalo!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 1:07:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Jaworowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the legalization of mall amounts of marijuana for personal use. I agree with the bill that relaxing the law under the guidelines set out in the bill is indeed "a natural, logical, and reasonable outgrowth of the current science of marijuana and attitude toward marijuana" that has been spreading across the nation. I have family in Washington state and Colorado and can see from the experiences in those states that there is no reason to classify marijuana as the highest level of dangerous drugs. A November 2018 study by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice found **no** increased use by young people after five years of legalization, and no increased dropout rate (and an actual increase in graduation rate). As the total arrests for marijuana dropped in half during the five year study, this also means fewer young adults (and adults) wasting away in prison for minor use of marijuana.

I can also see many social ills in Hawaii, such as lack of affordable housing, the need for universal pre-K, the need for road repair (the big news this week was a Star Advertiser report that Hawaii was ranked dead last factoring in 23 key indicators, including average gas prices, rush-hour traffic congestion and road quality), that we currently do not have the funds to support in full. The taxation of marijuana sales would be a boon to funding these and other necessary social services.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:56:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Pace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:24:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Gelert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:27:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Kekuna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:36:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

I and my family support the passage of SB686. We feel that the bill could have several positive impacts for the state, most importantly as additional tax revenue. This bill would also reduce the pressure on the courts from processing the many marijuana related offenses that come up, and create an additional agriculture opportunity for our state. Since other states have passed similar initiatives, we can learn from their experiences and create a bill that will best support Hawai'i and its people.

Mahalo,

Maria Walker, PO Box 33, Kapa'a, HI 96746

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:37:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alex beers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Please let's get recreational adult use cannabis this year. There is really no legitimate reason for not doing this. We have other states to fallow how they did it so it's a win for the PEOPLE of Hawaii NOT just a few despencerics. And on the medical side, the price cuts most people out.\$500-\$800 an oz.! Are you kidding me!

Aloha,

Alex Beers

20 Kaikai st.

Wailuku, HI

96793

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:38:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MAURY KING	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a Cannabis Voter and the time has come to expand medical uses and allow Recreational Adult Use of this plant.

Many other states have now legalized Adult Use. It is easy to review the evidence of the experience of these other states and find the benefits of doing this. This is a safe drug compared to alcohol and every other 'recreational' drug.

This has the possibility of creating a huge amount of revenue for the state. Especially if it is easy for EVERYONE over 21 to obtain it, including tourists, and making sure there are places to consume it legally.

It is almost inevitable that legalization will come on a federal level. There is no reason for Hawaii not to be on the leading edge of this wave. It is so easy to imagine people wanting to enjoy cannabis on their vacations and planning their destination accordingly.

Please proceed sensibly with the process of legalization. Send a delegation to other Adult Use states. Find out what works and what doesn't. Don't make entry into business expensive and don't let large companies run everything. Don't use vertical integration as is the case with medical use. Be sure that small home grows are legal. Find a way to integrate existing long time growers with a huge knowledge base about the plant and how to grow it. And so many more important issues to get right.

Hopefully we can include a way to get people that are incarcerated for marijuana clemency depending on the offense.

There is a huge body of evidence of the medicinal properties of cannabis and its components including the CBD and THC parts. Please add a lot more acceptable medical uses to the list.

Thank you for doing the right thing and the smart thing and help make a huge positive change.

Maury King
Wailuku, Maui

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:57:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:07:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miriama Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill. Please, for the sake of our children, don't pass such a bill. This would be the example you'd be setting for them. Please don't let this be your legacy and their reality!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:29:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the bill, because I know for myself that marijuana was a gateway drug, that led to more. If I had not tried it for the first time, and was able to get so much of it so easily while in High School, it wouldn't have lead me to other drugs. We have a drug epidemic in America and Hawaii. There are so many incarcerated and in need of or in treatment programs. By introducing and passing this bill, do you actually think things will get better? Can you say with a clear conscience that this bill would be helpful and not hurtful? Is money always more important? Isn't this about money and not about the people who may possibly be hurt by this? I pray that you are in right standing with God our creator. I pray that you would seek Godly counsel before you implement any bills, and I pray God and the Holy Spirit would pour out wisdom upon you all! In the Name of Jesus! Amen

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:41:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Galvin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's time we legalize this marijuana which is already ubiquitous statewide and use the tax income to benefit and repair our aging infrastructure, public schools, etc. with the large tax dollars which the City and State will recoup.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:18:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:44:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Lynnae Knox-McAllister	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose bill SB686.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:46:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Riverstone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i Legislators

The War on Drugs, especially the criminalization of cannabis use, has been a misguided failure engineered to benefit Big Pharma, Big Alcohol, and Big Tobacco, as well as the for-profit prison industry. I hope that you will pass SB686 to legalize the use, possession, and sale of cannabis.

Sincerely

Jerry Riverstone

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:59:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lohiao Paoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the legalization of marijuana for all uses!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 12:04:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I agree in principle to legalize marijuana but I also think there should be education of the public. Too many children and animals are getting ahold of edibles and too many young people smoking. There needs to be a serious education push at the same time as the legalization. Since there will be funds collected from the dispensaries, those funds should be used for educational purposes as well as defraying any costs regarding legalization.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 12:29:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelley Steele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB686 to legalize the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana. This measure is long, long over due. Eleven other states have legalized it already. With a well established medicinal program already in place, and the ability to learn from the experiences of other states who have already legalized it - the time is now. It is the right thing to do, plus we need the income that will be generated.

Thank you kindly for your consideration!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 1:12:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Goodmanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the passing of this bill and establishing retail outlets which have been allocated in a fair and just way.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 1:26:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 1:37:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SB686. Mahalo nui loa.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 2:30:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB686

I've included: [The Marijuana Policy Project](#)'s Top 10 Reasons to End Marijuana Prohibition with a System of Regulation & Taxation.

1. Prohibition hasn't worked — marijuana use is mainstream and widespread. Relatively few Americans had heard of marijuana when the federal government first effectively prohibited it in 1937. Today, government data shows more than 118 million Americans admit to having tried it (24 million in the last month), and every year, the Monitoring the Future survey finds that four out of five high school seniors say marijuana is easy to obtain.
2. Prohibition wastes public resources, while marijuana taxation brings in much-needed revenue. A sample estimate by the Congressional Research Service projected that replacing marijuana prohibition with taxation and regulation would yield \$6.8 billion in excise taxes alone. In Washington State, taxes on cannabis sales brought in more than \$400 million in 2017.
3. Arresting marijuana offenders prevents police from focusing on real crime. In 2016 alone, the FBI reported more than 650,000 marijuana arrests and citations — more than for all violent crimes combined. Meanwhile, FBI data showed that less than 46% of violent crimes and only 18.3% of property crimes were cleared nationwide. Data published in Police Quarterly showed a higher percentage of some crimes were solved after legalization in both Colorado and Washington.
4. Prohibition sends an incredible number of Americans through the criminal justice system, ruining countless lives. According to the FBI, there have been more than 13 million marijuana arrests in the U.S. since 1995. Eighty-nine percent were for possession. While marijuana consumers who were not convicted have gone on to be president or Supreme Court justice, a criminal conviction can stand in the way of securing a job, getting housing, or receiving a professional license, student loan, food assistance, driver's license, or firearms permit.
5. Marijuana laws are disproportionately enforced. According to the ACLU, blacks are more than three times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites, despite similar rates of use.
6. Replacing marijuana prohibition with regulation does not increase rates of teen marijuana use. According to the most comprehensive government surveys in each state, no state that legalized marijuana for adults has seen an overall

increase in teens' rates of marijuana use outside of the confidence interval. Most of the data indicates slight decreases within the confidence intervals.

7. Marijuana prohibition breeds violence. As was the case during alcohol prohibition, driving this lucrative market underground results in violence. Both buyers and sellers are vulnerable to assault when disputes cannot be solved lawfully, in courts.
8. Regulation allows for control. Unlike licensed businesses in states that regulate cannabis, illicit marijuana sellers operate virtually anywhere and have no incentive not to sell to minors. Prohibition guarantees that marijuana will not be tested for purity and potency, creating the risk of contamination by dangerous pesticides, molds, bacteria, or even lacing.
9. Prohibition is bad for the environment. Illicit marijuana growers sometimes use banned pesticides, divert waterways, and leave hazardous waste in state and national parks. Regulated cannabis businesses are monitored to ensure compliance with zoning and environmental laws.
10. Marijuana is safer than alcohol. Researchers have consistently concluded that marijuana is less toxic than alcohol, it has less potential for addiction, and it is less likely to contribute to serious medical problems. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 30,000 alcohol-induced deaths per year, including more than 2,000 from acute overdose. It reports zero marijuana-induced deaths each year and there has never been a verified marijuana overdose death in history.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 2:58:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Logue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:07:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Colleagues,

I am here to testify in support of SB686 to legalize cannabis in Hawaii. With Canada passing similar legislation and Mexico on the verge of passing adult use based on its Supreme Court ruling, I believe the USA will one day pass legalization of recreational use. Its passage of the 2018 Farm Act approving hemp is, in my mind, the precursor for adult use of cannabis legislation.

As you know, ten states plus DC have approved adult use as we wait for Congress to act on this matter.

One suggestion I offer is to allow the current medical dispensaries to sell to the general public for 1 year. Their retail operations are in place and they could easily cater to medical patients and recreational users. Recreational users could be taxed 10-15% with dollars for the general fund. Registered patients would not be taxed.

After 1 year of dispensaries selling, other entrepreneurs could open stores or sell accordingly.

Another possibility or option is to allow personal private use in the home only and allow 4 - 6 plants per home.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my testify.

Will Espero

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:17:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:36:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Committee,

This is LOOOONG overdue legislation. Citizens across the country are demanding cannabis be legalized for responsible adult use and Hawai'i citizens are no different.

The time to move on legalization is NOW!

Mahalo for your help in moving this bill forward!

Respectfully,

Teri Heede

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:46:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DONNIE BECKER	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

YES PLEASE TIME TO FINALLY HELP PASS THIS IMPORTANT SB686 FOR HAWAII'S PEOPLE.....

SB686 [\(?\)](#)

Measure Title: RELATING TO MARIJUANA.

Report Title: Marijuana; Legalization

Description: Legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: JDC, WAM

Introducer(s): ENGLISH, S. CHANG, DELA CRUZ, GABBARD, J.KEOHOKALOLE, KIM, K. RHOADS, RUDERMAN, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Nishihara, Shimabukuro

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:56:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support.

We are losing sooooo much money by not legalizing marijuana. We have a whole new industry just waiting to support ag lands & good paying jobs. We must stop dragging our feet on this issue, there is no downside. Other states are raking in the tax dollars & we are completely missing the boat. Please. Do it this year - we need this new industry, we need these new tax dollars. We are fools if we don't.

Signed, an old lady who wants to see our schools fully funded & our houseless problems solved!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 4:06:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

This just makes sense! Please pass this bill.

SENATOR KARL RHOADS
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Aaron Shugo Pono Farias
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, Student
2430 Campus Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thursday, January 31, 2019

In Opposition of SB 686
RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Aloha, my name is Aaron Farias and I am a social work graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying in against of SB 686.

My studies at the University specialize in behavioral mental health and currently we increasingly find that clinicians are viewing the Harm Reduction Model as best practice. In my opinion as a substance abuse counselor, SB 686 institutes harm by legalizing the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana to individual who may not yet have acquired addictive tendencies. From my understanding, harm reduction works in one direction to decrease the level of harm and this bill looks to increase the risk of citizens becoming addicted to a recreational substance. This measure has the potential to increase poverty in the islands due to the limited occupational opportunities found for those that choose to introduce marijuana into their lifestyle.

I would like to close this testimony by thanking the committee for their active dedication to bettering the lives of the people who reside in this great State. I appreciate your hard work and consideration of opposing measure SB 686.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 4:12:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William H. Lawson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please please please don't go down the same road as some of the more foolish (and rapidly going broke) states on the mainland. We don't need a bigger permanent group of poor memory, slow thinking pot-heads and drug users in Hawaii. We already have way too many. We don't need to expose more people to the mind blunting effects of pot and street drugs. There are plenty people who aren't thinking clearly already. For many - a small pot habit surely and eventually becomes a fully engrossing crack/meth/heroin habit. Many of the people along this road of destruction are only able to survive because of our public assistances programs. These are some of the people taking over our parks with tents. They COULD HAVE HAD A BETTER LIFE if they hadn't gotten messed up in drugs and the mental illnesses that often follow drug use. We DON'T need more drugged-out vagabonds, bums, 'homeless' and free-loaders here in Hawaii. And don't forget us - 'normal people'. The net producers in this state are already breaking under the strain of all the free handouts and charity programs you guys give away. It will get even worse when we have to support people who NEVER should have gotten that way - but did because of a gateway drug like pot. There will be many people who just get caught in a trap that should be OBVIOUS to everyone. Yet the State of Hawaii is actually considering legalizing more drug use. If you do, you are really bad leaders.

Bill Lawson

808-528-2525

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 4:17:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gabriel Beeson-McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Gabriel Beeson-McArdle and I feel it is very important to give peopel access to effective medicines that are natural. This medicine can treat many various ailments and has shown to be less harful than most perscription drugs. This is a positive step forward in the right direction. Thank you for introducing this bill. Mahalo for all of your time and harwork!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:07:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB 686: Legalizes the personal use, possession, and sale of marijuana in a specified quantity. Requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments. Subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

As a pediatrician, marijuana use in adolescents have been shown to be harmful to their developing brains, and lower their IQ scores, decrease attention, verbal memory and executive functioning which is especially important for their schooling as they are preparing to enter the workforce or move into higher education. I am also concerned about public safety with its intoxicating effects that can lead to motor vehicle accidents and death. Having their parents use it gives the perception that marijuana is safe and acceptable, and it will be more easily available to them.

I ask that this bill not be passed for the safety and future of our children. Thank you.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:19:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanice Cadaoas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB686 because of the unknown consequences this could have on my community.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:20:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Guerber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Members of the committee,

I support the legalization of marijuana. This is long overdue. The medical science is overwhelming in support that marijuana has less side effects, promotes better health, and causes far less damage to society than most any other (already legal) drug. We all know there is a large black market already occurring, and with legalization we could capture lost revenue from taxes that could be used for so much good in our state.

While other states have already passed legalization measures, we can learn from their experiences, as well as our already well established medicinal program. These states are already claiming tourism jumps directly related to legalization. We could benefit from this as well.

I don't know the stats, but I'm sure legalizing marijuana would also have a beneficial effect on our judicial system. While under the umbrella of "criminal justice reform," this seemingly small part could be a major step to reducing the burden on our court system by freeing up time and effort to deal with larger more pressing issues.

When it comes down to it, I believe supporting legalization is the most cost effective and moral thing to do.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:29:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads,

I support legalization of adult-use recreational cannabis in the State of Hawaii. It will raise badly needed revenue, regulate a product that is already widely used for consumer protection, undercut drug cartels, increase public awareness about health risks, reduce our incarcerated population (further saving money and reducing our liability for violating federal law and the constitution) lower rates of teen use, all without sacrificiing public health or safety.

Mahalo,

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:17:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claudine Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am a physician that has been practicing Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Honolulu for the last 18 years. I have never submitted testimony to the legislature before, but so adamantly oppose this bill that I have taken the time to write to you today.

We have so many citizens addicted to legal substances that cause heart disease (the leading cause of death of Americans) and cancer, namely tobacco and alcohol, why would we knowingly legalize another substance that could cause diseases. Proponents of marijuana try to say that marijuana is safe. The truth is that due to it's illegal status, there have not been good longterm studies on the effect of marijuana on these diseases. However, I have a 46 year old patient with emphysema - a condition usually associated with tobacco smoking - who only smoked cigarettes a little as a teenager, but who has smoked marijuana daily since he was 14 years old. I am afraid that with legalization of marijuana this story is going to become more and more common. We are finally making headway with our efforts to get people to quit smoking cigarettes with the lowest smoking rates now in the last 50 years. Why would we then legalize a substance that likely has just as much of a detrimental effect?

Proponents of marijuana also argue that it doesn't make people violent or aggressive like some "harder" drugs do. But marijuana really is a "gateway" drug. People don't usually go from using no substances to smoking ice. They use cigarettes and alcohol, progress to marijuana, then someone offers them crystal methamphetamine at a party and they're hooked.

I feel that there is a use for marijuana in some medical condtions. I believe that decriminalization of marijuana is acceptable with the overcrowding of our jails and the increased workload of our police force. But legalization sends the wrong message to our citizens, especially adolescents and young adults. These patients in my practice already feel marijuana is "no big deal" due to all the press over the medical use here and legalization in other states. I'm afraid that in 20 or 30 or 50 years we will be dealing with the health consequences, as well as the financial burden of caring for the excess medical problems, that will certainly stem from increased marijuana use if it becomes legal in Hawaii.

Thank you for taking the time to read about my position and concerns.

Sincerely,

Claudine Kimura, MD

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:57:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JoDee Hunt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I personally cannot think of anything more detrimental to families in Hawaii than this bill. I lost my husband for many years to this drug and it was not recreational, it was simply addictive and destructive. My brother was affected in much the same way and though he was successful in his career, he was not successful in relationships. Very few people can just use it recreationally, it generally leads to other drugs and habits to get that feeling. No, I have never used it and never will. I don't think that should invalidate my testimony of how damaging it really is. Please do not pass this bill!!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:12:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiel Nakagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:15:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senate,

I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the legalizing, the use of marijuana. Legalizing this will put the pulic at risk. Marijuana impares people's judgement; especially drivng under the influence. It also destroys memory. Marijuana is a gateway drug which leads to far worse. Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Julie Pascua

94-462 Kahuanani Street

Waipahu, HI 96797

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:56:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A. Glass	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm in support of SB686 that will smooth our path to legalization and decriminalization of the personal use of marijuana. The decriminalization of marijuana will free up police and District Attorney time, and not cost the State any money at all for incarceration, so long as a person is within the framework you decide is proper.

Reasonable regulations on who can use it and where they can use it are important but should not throw up roadblocks to personal, recreational use of marijuana by adults. All forms of Marijuana should be included. You should not set the amount allowable so low that it is difficult to enforce a violation. If we become hung up on measurements, we will be scratching our heads over how much THC is in a single homemade brownie.

Please put Hawai'i on the path of 11 other states and the nation of Canada to legalize personal use of marijuana.

Mahalo

Anika Glass

Waikoloa

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:30:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:43:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
paula satterthwaite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Legalization is long overdue for people 21 and over. I am a retired educator and would rather see people using pot than alcohol. It would provide additional tax funds and give law enforcement more time to devote to real criminal issues. Meth and opioids are a real problem. Nobody has died from marijuana. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:21:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Brown III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, and Senate Judiciary members,

As a young, progressive, social justice advocate, I strongly implore you to positively report SB686 out of committee. The time has come for Hawai'i to join the 10 other states, plus Washington D.C., in legalizing the recreational possession, use, and sale of cannabis (marijuana). Indeed, we are the last state in the West to hold off on legalization (California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Alaska have legalized recreationally).

The horrendous effect the drug war has had on our criminal justice system, and the many thousands of lives it has destroyed, is now well known as the debate has continued. It is no longer a matter of "if" we legalize, but "when." My generation stands overwhelmingly in support of legalization, as does a majority of the general population. Be on the right side of history, and change lives for the better - Vote Yes.

Mahalo,

Joey Brown, Kailua resident

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:58:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Juterbock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:12:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary receiving testimony in the hearing for this bill; my name is Joesph P. Picon a registered voter in Waipahu, 96797.

SB 686 RELATING TO MARIJUANA. I OPPOSE this bill.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:41:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Montgomery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure strongly and feel this is the wrong direction for our state as a whole and our local communities.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 12:53:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stuart saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It will be a Great tax relief on already burdened tax payers. it time to do the right thing and legalize cannabis, especially with what knowledge you already have of it.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:16:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please do NOT approve this bill. Our keiki are so important for the future of Hawaii and by allowing this in our islands, their lives and our future is jeopardized. Please just say NO.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:17:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passing of this bill to approve recreational Marijuana!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:57:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen J. Escher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:00:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Karl Rhoads (Chair), Sen. Glenn Wakai (Co-chair)

Re: Testimony for SB686 – Relating to Marijuana

From: Clifton Otto, MD - Oppose

Public Hearing: January 31, 2019, 9:00 am, Room 016

Whenever we talk about the scheduling of cannabis, the Legislature's reply is that we must wait for the federal government to act first, because federal law pre-empts state law. Why is the recreational use of cannabis any different ?

Have you discussed this subject with the Department of Justice, and if so, can we see the communications ?

Do you feel that it's acceptable to create an industry that violates federal law just because of the current policy of non-enforcement ? What signal are you sending to the black market and the general population when you convey that federal law does not need to be followed ?

The accepted medical use of cannabis in Hawaii is exempt from federal Schedule I regulation because federal law says that a substance cannot be in federal Schedule I if it has accepted medical use. However, there is no such exemption for the recreational use of cannabis under federal law.

Legalizing the recreational use of cannabis in Hawaii because other states have already done so is not a valid reason, especially not for Hawaii, where we have a unique island setting that is unlike any other mainland state.

Have you considered the impact that all the fertilizer waste and energy usage that comes with retail cannabis production will have upon our fragile environment ?

If the main motivation for legalizing recreational use cannabis is to generate tax revenue, then you need to find a different revenue source. Cannabis for profit will only encourage unethical criminal and corporate interests to take advantage of our Aloha.

If the goal is to decrease harm from drug arrests and incarcerations, then why don't you simply recognize the ability of Hawaii residents to produce cannabis for personal use in their own homes under our constitutionally protected right to privacy ? Creating a state-regulated retail distribution system for recreational use cannabis is not needed.

Cannabis is a very powerful substance with unique medical properties that require medical supervision, which means that it cannot be regulated like tobacco and alcohol. The answer is to stick with medical use, remove the myth that our medical program is violating federal law, allow certifying physicians to decide what constitutes legitimate medical use rather than following an arbitrary list created by the Legislature, and give us a chance to become more familiar with the uses and dangers of this substance before opening a door that cannot be closed.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 12:47:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kimiko LaHaela Walter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

First, mahalo for hearing this important bill at the beginning of session. I am writing you today in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB686, which would legalize cannabis in the state of Hawai'i.

I am not a marijuana user myself, though can clearly see the benefits of passing this bill into law. Let us learn from the eleven other states that have met success with similar measures. This is a long overdue measure that would not only bolster our state's economy but, more importantly, drastically improve the lives of thousands of residents. As you know, the failed war on drugs has incarcerated thousands of non-violent persons, many of whom become unnecessary mainstays in the criminal justice system. Additionally, there are so many residents who can benefit from cannabis for medical conditions not currently outlined in our medical program.

Cannabis is far less harmful than alcohol and, once legalized, we have increased opportunities to educate our youth on safe, responsible, adult-use...just like other products.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and I hope you'll pass this bill through your committee.

Kimiko LaHaela Walter, Mo'ili'ili

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:39:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer-Lynne K Carrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I have grown up among alcoholics and drug addicts all my life. I am sorry to say so have my kids. I do not agree in any way shape or form the legalization of Marijuana as a recreational thing like a cigarette. That, like alcohol, is an entry way into the world of drugs for people who do not understand what it is like to watch family, friends, loved one succumb to this and just give up. unless you make available programs to help those who cannot control themselves and take to more illegal drugs for the bigger high, make it odorless (the smell makes me nauseous and I will go to your offices for the resulting effect it has on me (kinda like cigar smoke and me). the only people who want this to happen are the people making money off this and the addicts. Why should we even be discussing this. and you say a Lottery will bring evil to our State. Look whats happening now.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:07:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary Chairman Chris Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and committee members,

I SUPPORT HB686, if amendments are made to end the unjust cannabis prohibition.

As you discuss this bill, please, keep in mind, that there is something very important missing in HB686, which discusses current popular attitudes, and economic advantages, but there is an overwhelming silence regarding America's principles of justice, equality, and freedom.

The principles of justice demand that Hawaii's lawmakers must reject the federal marijuana prohibition in its entirety, not just create more EXCEPTIONS to unjust laws.

There is a strong influence to just sweep the racial prejudice and injustice of the last half century under the rug. However, there is the abuse of human freedom, to be addressed.

As the Judiciary committee you have an acute focus on the legal aspects of this cannabis bill. The legal principles, and love of freedom, upon which this country, and state, are founded should be the basis of all your deliberations.

There is no doubt that the cannabis prohibition is based in racial prejudice, and was created by corporate manipulation of the national economy into an oil based economy, instead of a country based on biofuels, ignoring the advice of our countries founding fathers.

Our revered US presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, all promoted the use of cannabis. These great leaders were not criminals; they were noble-hearted cannabis consumers, with a vision of a strong America, with cannabis fields spreading from sea to shining sea.

President Lincoln warned us against prohibitions, but we still learned nothing from the disastrous alcohol prohibition, which lasted 13 crime-filled years. Now, this unjustified marijuana prohibition has gone on for 50 long- heart-breaking years, devastating millions of lives, and wasting billions of dollars, and successfully halting the production of biofuels, still ignoring the cannabis philosophy of our founding fathers:

"Make the most of Indian hemp seed, and sow it everywhere!" ~ US PRESIDENT George Washington

"Two of my favorite things are sitting on my front porch smoking a pipe of sweet hemp, and playing my Hohner harmonica." ~US PRESIDENT Abraham Lincoln.

Perhaps, America's great forests could have been saved, and the fracking fields that are spreading like wildfire across America could have been avoided, if America had embraced cannabis, instead of vilifying a plant that hopefully can still save our economy, without devastating our environment.

Twenty years ago, compassionate Hawaii lawmakers created vanguard, FIRST IN THE NATION, medical cannabis legislation, by creating EXCEPTIONS to marijuana laws for medical use, which blatantly violated federal law.

Please, blatantly violate federal law again.

The CDC reports that alcohol kills 88,000 Americans every year, and has devastating health, and financial costs. Therefore, why is alcohol legal, and cannabis illegal? How can lawmakers justify approving, even honoring, and promoting, the sale of alcohol, while prosecuting peaceful cannabis consumers as criminals?

For the principles of equality and justice to prevail in Hawaii, the marijuana prohibition should be resoundingly criticized for the abusive, invasive, and unjustified criminalization of hundred's of thousands of Hawaii's citizens and visitors, for consuming a natural herb, which is far safer than Hawaii's world-famous beer and wine microbrews, and Hawaii's gourmet distilled liquors.

If justice is to prevail, the Hawaii Legislature must strongly reject the federal marijuana prohibition as prejudice and unconstitutional. The harm it has caused is immeasurable!

Please, create fair commerce laws for cannabis regulations, which create thousands of small cannabis business entrepreneurs, farmers, processors, packagers, cooks and bakers, trimmers, delivery services, etc...

US President Barack Obama, was a great disappointment to cannabis consumers, when he did not fight for our right to consume cannabis, which he had enjoyed regularly in his college years.

"I inhaled frequently ... that was the point." ~ US PRESIDENT Barack Obama

Obama also said, "I don't think it is more dangerous than alcohol," which is in agreement with the CDC. Please amend HB686 to end the prohibition, and apply regulations that do not exceed the limitations, and fees, placed on highly addictive, and deadly alcohol.

"In terms of marijuana and legalization, I think that should be a state issue, state-by-state. ~ US PRESIDENT Donald Trump

Here is Hawaii's chance to again become the nation's leader in cannabis legislation. Bring justice, equality, and fairness into Hawaii's cannabis laws.

Mahalo for your kind attention.

Brian Murphy

Maui, Hawaii

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:54:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pearl Brandt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I support the medical use of marijuana in specified quantity per a doctor's recommendation, but not the personal use, personal possession and personal sale of marijuana. Having 4 children that have graduated from Hawaii's public school system, all of my children have seen their peers have an easy access to marijuana. There is already an abuse with minors using this drug as a recreation; this bill only encourages students and families to have freedom on marijuana and will enhance their practice or possibly look for the next drug that provides a nirvana state. I see cultures of families that support their children to be a part of this unnecessary practice of recreation. We should have a bill that teaches families, that have been culturallly steeped in recreational marijuana, to learn the negative effects. Every individual is uniquely designed; physically, emotionally, and mentally. And when one child or teenager does not understand the impact the drug may have on one person can differ from another person, this can be life changing or life threatening as the individual physically matures. Keep in mind that if shootings in our state and nation need to be controlled, let's first look at the deeper issues of drug and mental issues of our youth and families.

Thank you for your consideration of opposing this bill.

Aloha,

A mother, grandmother, business owner, community volunteer, friend, and concerned citizen

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:59:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary Chairman Chris Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and committee members,

I SUPPORT HB686, if amendments are made to end the unjust cannabis prohibition.

As you discuss this bill, please, keep in mind, that there is something very important missing in HB686, which discusses current popular attitudes, and economic advantages, but there is an overwhelming silence regarding America's principles of justice, equality, and freedom.

The principles of justice demand that Hawaii's lawmakers must reject the federal marijuana prohibition in its entirety, not just create more EXCEPTIONS to unjust laws.

There is a strong influence to just sweep the racial prejudice and injustice of the last half century under the rug. However, there is the abuse of human freedom, to be addressed.

As the Judiciary committee you have an acute focus on the legal aspects of this cannabis bill. The legal principles, and love of freedom, upon which this country, and state, are founded should be the basis of all your deliberations.

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Our revered US presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, all promoted the use of cannabis. These great leaders were not criminals; they were noble-hearted cannabis consumers, with a vision of a strong America, with cannabis fields spreading from sea to shining sea.

President Lincoln warned us against prohibitions, but we still learned nothing from the disastrous alcohol prohibition, which lasted 13 crime-filled years. Now, this unjustified marijuana prohibition has gone on for 50 long- heart-breaking years, devastating millions of lives, and wasting billions of dollars, and successfully halting the production of biofuels, still ignoring the cannabis philosophy of our founding fathers:

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"Two of my favorite things are sitting on my front porch smoking a pipe of sweet hemp, and playing my Hohner harmonica." ~US PRESIDENT Abraham Lincoln.

Perhaps, America's great forests could have been saved, and the fracking fields that are spreading like wildfire across America could have been avoided, if America had embraced cannabis, instead of vilifying a plant that hopefully can still save our economy, without devastating our environment.

Twenty years ago, compassionate Hawaii lawmakers created vanguard, FIRST IN THE NATION, medical cannabis legislation, by creating EXCEPTIONS to marijuana laws for medical use, which blatantly violated federal law.

Please, blatantly violate federal law again.

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For the principles of equality and justice to prevail in Hawaii, the marijuana prohibition should be resoundingly criticized for the abusive, invasive, and unjustified criminalization of hundred's of thousands of Hawaii's citizens and visitors, for consuming a natural herb, which is far safer than Hawaii's world-famous beer and wine microbrews, and Hawaii's gourmet distilled liquors.

If justice is to prevail, the Hawaii Legislature must strongly reject the federal marijuana prohibition as prejudice and unconstitutional. The harm it has caused is immeasurable!

Please, create fair commerce laws for cannabis regulations, which create thousands of small cannabis business entrepreneurs, farmers, processors, packagers, cooks and bakers, trimmers, delivery services, etc...

US President Barack Obama, was a great disappointment to cannabis consumers, when he did not fight for our right to consume cannabis, which he had enjoyed regularly in his college years.

"I inhaled frequently ... that was the point." ~ US PRESIDENT Barack Obama

Obama also said, "I don't think it is more dangerous than alcohol," which is in agreement with the CDC. Please amend HB686 to end the prohibition, and apply regulations that do not exceed the limitations, and fees, placed on highly addictive, and deadly alcohol.

"In terms of marijuana and legalization, I think that should be a state issue, state-by-state. ~ US PRESIDENT Donald Trump

Here is Hawaii's chance to again become the nation's leader in cannabis legislation. Bring justice, equality, and fairness into Hawaii's cannabis laws.

Mahalo for your kind attention.

Mary Overbay

Puunene, Hawaii

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:06:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please reconsider doing this. The "jury is still out" on the effects of Marijuana. I recommend an excellently researched book by NYTimes writer Alex Berenson: "Tell Your Children, The truth about Marijuana, Mental illness, and Violence". The "pot" of today is NOTHING like it used to be, with highly elevated THC levels. Suicide rates have greatly increased in Colorado, where it was legalized. Also, we hear all about alcohol related accidents, when marijuana isn'r even tested for. Err on the side of caution, please.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:46:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Una Greenaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. Bring us into the 21st century, and help to raise revenues for the state

Mahalo

Una Greenaway

From: [Rob Hemsher](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 8:54:37 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

As a consenting adult I support the full legalization of marijuana. I hope that more people have access and make the switch from hardcore perscription drugs to a natural pain killing alternative.

Rob hemsher

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

From: [Marilyn Mick](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 8:43:54 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

From: [Melissa Lisa Anne Porter Cordovana](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 9:04:01 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cordovana, RN BSN
15-1713 6th Ave.
Keaau, HI 96749
(808)854-5367

From: [Sharon Olson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 10:41:21 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis.

Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers.

As a physician doing integrated/functional medicine (licensed since 1970), I have never restricted my patients from using medications that they know helps them and that includes the use of cannabis.

Being a specialist in cannabis prescribing and teaching has allowed me to witness the ability of cannabis to allow stability for bipolar disease; calming with some clarity for Alzheimer's; a reduction in the long-term negative effects following a concussion; relief of symptoms during cancer treatment; complete remission of cancerous tumors; chronic pain relief without addiction; restorative sleep without harmful drug use; a beneficial anti-inflammatory effect; reduction in irritability from chemical exposure in our diet; seizure control as well as many other beneficial effects so I wonder why is this medication regulated.

Cannabis is a medication that requires teaching for optimum results since too much THC without balancing with CBD can cause an increase in some medical symptoms so I believe all patients must have some education in proper use.

Unfortunately I think I know the answer to, 'why is this medication regulated?'

I have been in medicine all my life starting at the age of five when my maternal grandmother would take me with her to work as a private duty registered nurse as she taught me how to care for people.

I care for people.

Approximately 5 years ago I was contacted by the CEO for University Health Alliance in Hawaii.

The purpose of his call was to notify me that he was not happy with the way I was practicing medicine. I had no right to help his patients get well, my job was to give them drugs, did I not understand that?

I told him I did not understand that.

To which he replied, 'you'll either do that or you won't get paid!'

My immediate response was, "then you can go to hell because I earned the right to practice medicine but you never earned the right to bully me!" My intentions will never be to poison people for the profit of an insurance or pharmaceutical company. Possibly you, your children or your grandchildren were put in front of TV with drug commercials beginning in 1986 in preparation for this drug economy. Enough with poisoning our children and citizens with pharmaceutical drugs this energetic cannabis plant needs to be legalized for healing. Healing should not be a criminal event! Nor should healing be prohibited by insurance.

Who gave that insurance CEO any power over my business as a physician?

I refuse to drug people inappropriately for the benefit of the insurance and pharmaceutical companies but I encourage you to see that it has been their fear of people getting healthy that has led to their brainwashing to keep people away from beneficial medications and treatments trying to legislate their treatments as the only acceptable treatments and that is pure untruth.

Pease, allow adults to determine if this medication may be of benefit to them. CBD cannabis saved my life, allow others the right to listen to their eternal other speaking.

I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

Dr Sharon Olson

www.iEmergeNaturally.com

www.sharonolsono.com

From: [Jack Faessler](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 10:57:33 AM

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers.

1. Many citizens have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We must help them expunge their records.
2. Some of the tax revenue should be reinvested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs.
3. Persons criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve consideration for employment in the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

With over 80 years of data collection experience, Gallup research knows the most about the will of citizens, what matters to them in life and how their priorities change over time. Its 10/22/18 press release indicated overwhelming majority support for unconditionally LEGALIZING cannabis at a new high of 66% across all groups. I live in Kailua Kona. I survived cancer and have been a registered Medical Cannabis user for years. As of today, 1/28/19, the highly anticipated ("some time in January") opening of the B.I.G. Kona dispensary has NOT been met --- yet more delay. At a time when unconditional legalization is moving forward rapidly in several states, "liberal" Hawaii still adheres to the governmental regulation model. One must repeatedly ask, "**WHY???**" We need less government in our lives, not more!

Sincerely,

Jack Faessler

From: [Glen P. Young](mailto:Glen.P.Young)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 11:40:17 AM

From: christine johnson [mailto:cj77701@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2019 11:45 AM
To: Maile Shimabukuro <maileshimabukuro@yahoo.com>; Sen. Roz Baker <senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Karl Rhoads <SenRhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: cindy@lokahipacific.org; gocampo@hawaii.gov; Mrs. R Johnson Section 8 <rjohnson1@honolulu.gov>; gocampo@honolulu.gov; Daphne Okamoto <Daphne.Okamoto@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: Fw: SB686

Aloha!

I sent this in as my testimony on the pot bill SB686

I wanted you all to see that i try help all parties involved regarding public health and maternal child health..

It is not easy to go through all this.. All i have is my experience and testimony..

All people have rights and to ignore some their rights so that others can prosper is wrong..

christine johnson

From: christine johnson <cj77701@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 5:45 PM
To: senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.org; SenRhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov; Baker; christine johnson
Subject: SB686

Aloha Legislators!

When considering legalizing marijuana. please attempt to put in restrictions that will protect the rights of those who do not like or want to be around pot or pot users, especially in public housing and everywhere people are smoking pot.

As a Registered Nurse and the widow of a man who committed suicide and who had a 24/7 addiction to pot and other drugs.., i have to ask you to please consider what you are doing to those who have to put up with the crazyness that can take over a family when a member is on pot.

It stinks, it is secondhand smoke (if it is not injected in food)..

The stoned person is not always safe to be around especially driving and in the care of children.

The paranoia and changes in mood and consciousness can have detrimental effects on everyone who has to put up with this.

There is little difference from living with an alcoholic than living with a pot head.

I know people claim (especially those who use and abuse pot) that it is safe and doesn't harm anyone, but that is not true at all..

I know that profit over people is the main reason for the push for legalizing pot.

So it seems like you will ram it through with no concern for others..?

Right now I live in a "affordable housing" building with 8 units..

I was told and signed a lease that there is absolutely NO SMOKING of ANYTHING including POT allowed here... and yet the man next door ignores the rules and smokes it all day and night and the stink alone comes through the vent system into my apartment.. making me sick...

In order for him to be confronted with his breaking the law and rules.. we have to witness him smoking it and take a photo.. otherwise nothing can be done.

He has tried to hit 2 women with his car.. he has thrown coconuts and hoses at others.. He is violent and severely paranoid and mentally unstable...

The police are here almost weekly for something he has done to a person or animal.

They can't do anything about the pot because he has a medical card.. so they say the management company has to go after him because he is breaking THEIR rules and lease.. and they say.. they can't be the ones to confront him because they need a third party to witness and photograph the pot..

Do you see what I am getting at???

You may think you are helping sick people feel better, when in fact you are making healthy people sick and crazy..

Please.. remember those who don't smoke pot or want anything to do with those who do and consider all the laws and rules that need to be changed and addressed so that the human rights and rights of peace and safety of others are respected..

I spoke with a Kihei Police officer about the situation.. He agrees with me that people with medical pot cards who live in apartments and condos should only be allowed to eat the medical pot in cookies or food.. that NO smoking of it should be allowed in public housing places.

He said where he lives he and his children have to put up with the same thing and they smell it coming from people and places around them.

All the pot heads I have known have gone on to use cocaine, heroin, opioids, crack etc..

I believe it is a gateway drug..

Mahalo!!..

Christine Johnson

2170 South Kihei Rd #24

Kihei, 96753

From: [Eric Schrager](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 2:00:10 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads,

I strongly support the legalization, regulation and taxation of adult-use recreational cannabis in the State of Hawai‘i. This is a common sense drug policy reform that is long overdue.

Please support SB686.

Mahalo,

Eric Schrager
Ewa Beach

From: [David O'Quinn](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 6:38:10 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

As a medical cannabis user, I ask that the current bill SB686 not exclude the current allowances designated for medical cannabis such as the ability to grow up to 10 plants rather than the 3 proposed by the legalization law. Also with legalization an adult can possess up to 1 oz. of cannabis. I believe the current allowance for medical cannabis is 4 oz. I sincerely support legalization for several reasons, the strongest being that the cannabis plant has been with humans for thousands of years. Only in the last century did we decide to criminalize it and much of the propaganda regarding those reasons have proved to be false. Cannabis is medicine and a miracle in whole plant form. Some of the problems California has witnessed since legalization is that the medical cannabis community and what supported that community has lost some of its allowances due to the changes made in legalization. It is as though medical users have been forgotten. If you research this I think you will find that it is very important to include people that have worked with cannabis for years to assist in the preparation of these laws.

Sincerely,

David O'Quinn

County of Kauai

From: [Michelle Caron](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:30:53 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads,

I strongly support the legalization, regulation and taxation of adult-use recreational cannabis in the State of Hawai'i. This is a common sense drug policy reform that is long overdue.

Please support SB686. Mahalo,
Michelle Caron

From: noreply@jotform.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:35:43 AM

Submission Date

2019-01-29 16:33:58

Name

Syd Kaai

Email

sydkaai@gmail.com

Subject

Aloha Senate JDC Chair,

I am writing you today to strongly support SB 686 which would legalize cannabis in the state of Hawaii.

This is a long overdue measure that would not only help our state's economy but more importantly drastically improve the lives of thousands of residents. As you know the failed war on drugs has incarcerated thousands of non-violent persons who now have an even harder time making it in our difficult island economy and supporting their families. Additionally, there are so many residents who can benefit from cannabis for medical conditions not outlined in our medical program.

Cannabis is far less harmful than alcohol and once legalized we have increased opportunities to educate our youth on safe, responsible, adult-use just like other products.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and passing this bill puts us one step closer to a more compassionate harmonious society which you will have a hand in creating.

From: [Robert](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 12:00:01 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis.

With personal experience granting me relief of sixty-five pills a day and an implanted morphine pump for spinal complications for over fifteen (15) years, and now with medical marijuana I have lost one hundred pounds (100 lbs), I no longer take daily narcotic medication, I have been able to wean off of and remove the implanted intrathecal device and I am a contributing member once again despite my personal challenges. With extraordinary medical results, I can testify to first-hand knowledge of the benefits of medical use for marijuana. I urge you to consider the science and the truth. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

Robert Quartero
robq68@gmail.com
(808)724-0129

From: [Rickey Kamai](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 2:05:49 PM



Testimony for SB 686 to Legalize Cannabis in Hawaii by 3pm on Wednesday January 30th.

Name	Rickey Kamai
Email	mr.kamai620@gmail.com
Subject	Aloha Senate JDC Chair,

I am writing you today to strongly support SB 686 which would legalize cannabis in the state of Hawaii.

This is a long overdue measure that would not only help our state's economy but more importantly drastically improve the lives of thousands of residents. As you know the failed war on drugs has incarcerated thousands of non-violent persons who now have an even harder time making it in our difficult island economy and supporting their families. Additionally, there are so many residents who can benefit from cannabis for medical conditions not outlined in our medical program.

Cannabis is far less harmful than alcohol and once legalized we have increased opportunities to educate our youth on safe, responsible, adult-use just like other products.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and passing this bill puts us one step closer to a more compassionate harmonious society which you will have a hand in creating.

Form Letter 1 Names SB 686

LATE TESTIMONY

1 Nate Hix	1 Amanda Martin
2 Peter Kunz	2 Jud Roberts
3 Henry Sauer	3 Kawika Christian
4 Keely Brown	4 Richard Eckert
5 Makana Manasas	5 Brett Jones
6 Savanna Martinez	6 Isabella Gutman
7 Rick Guyre Allen	7 Kendra Apana
8 Nahea Lopez	8 Kim Ortiz
9 Jonathan Stolfi	9 Stephanie Poarch
10 Ashlynn Taylor	10 Lorrin Aiwohi
11 Tristan Rosario	11 Harlow Todaro
12 Jamie Siangco	12 John Keliiliki
13 Shawn Wear	13 Kehau Brown
14 Max Tornai	14 Jaylyn Mahoe-Subica
15 Kristin Tinsley	15 Noah Wheeler
16 Hank Black	16 Brayson Camat
17 Army Black	17 Kelsey Reed
18 Noah Black	18 Tiger Lily
19 Jett Lum	19 Kanani Naweli
20 Rosa Powell	20 Tyler Bolibol
21 Qhad Lynch	21 Daniel Mann
22 Jessica Scalera	22 Lorrin Aiwohi
23 Max Ostrowski	23 Sueo Higa
24 Kamuela Pelletier	24 Anuheia Higa
25 Phoenix Taredi	25 Jessica Higa
26 Kai Nitta	26 Mas Owen
27 Mike Okumura	27 Jami Power
28 David Bloore	28 Peter Power
29 Harrison Reardon	29 Monica Pihi
30 William Greenleaf	30 Erin Pihi
31 Marta Greenleaf	31 Jon Abbott
32 Cody Hyatt	32 Liann Young
33 Aubree Miller	33 Kilonia Young
34 Carrie Spranger	34 Chris Matteson
35 Rachael Ludwick	35 Leslie New Sr.
36 Peter Miceli	36 Travis New
37 Morriah Fernandex	37 Arleen New
38 Albert Ritums	
39 Tyler Bruce	
40 Makana Mardonada	
41 Tahiti Cho	
42 Christiam Harting	
43 Charles Green	
44 Erza Martin	
45 Raquel Alcain	
46 Kristina Valdez	

47 Leilani Alcain
48 Dylan Alcain
49 Jesse Carvalho
50 Jim Jones
51 Kim Worthington
52 Nainoa C
53 Scott Mcdanold
54 Randy Gonce
55 Ted Wright
56 Steve Black
57 Robert
58 Kylee-Lynn Bush
59 Kuumomi Pali
60 Duane Lum
61 Jason Liu
62 Chanson Nelson
63 Brandy Kahoano
64 Nainoa Ho
65 Beau Holly
66 Syd Kaai
67 Lisa Hatzenbuhler
68 Sydney Linder
69 Judith Naone
70 Stephany Cecil
71 Blayze Badiny
72 Ansel Clarke
73 Jerome Brynda
74 Michael De Leon
75 Doane Williams
76 Young Choi
77 Jon-Kaeo Marciel
78 Jason Cabajar
79 Ivan Mande
80 Chanh Tran
81 Rico Concepcion
82 Rena Hindman
83 Bryon Lee
84 Chason Riskus
85 Bryson Daligdig
86 Chelsey Daligdig
87 Kanoa Dilcher
88 Eric Rue
89 Vince Lono
90 Shane Fernandex
91 Scott Yamada
92 Elijah Toohey
93 Kathleen Aitchison

94 Linda Jones
95 Michael Madrid
96 Karl Corwin
97 Sterling Almeida
98 Tamera Heine
99 Larry Dortmund
100 Andrew Simmons
101 Tom Johnson
102 Robert Cuadra
103 Ryan Sueoka
104 Nina Sacks
105 Beth Mallia
106 Kawena Mitchell
107 Nathan Yuen
108 Darren Burke
109 Heather Proud
110 Anne Pecoff
111 Mishka Sulva
112 Daniel Owen
113 April Woolley
114 Kalimaya Herrera
115 Shawna Nelson
116 Jeff Evan
117 Deja Kaiwi
118 Cynthia VanKleef
119 Stephen VanKleef
120 Kim Markham
121 Ruth Fujita
122 Carin Enovijas
123 Lindsey Martinez
124 Adam Ladwig
125 Jeanine Williams
126 Charles Green
127 Charles Overly
128 Pono Kealoha
129 Elgin Onaga
130 Marilyn McAteer
131 Erik Hammel
132 Kauluwehiokalani Eli
133 Molly Bell
134 Josephine Keliipio
135 John Eberle
136 Nedi McKnight
137 Jay Ogden
138 Deb Mader
139 Lance Barstad
140 Julie Nahoi-Baricar

141 Rusty Iijima
142 Leslie Iijima
143 Jessica Garlock
144 Michael Dela Cruz
145 Eric Schrage
146 Rhonda Craig
147 Carla Gimpel
148 Kanani Ward
149 Ydine Sandberg
150 Brandon Makaawaawa
151 Elizamae Ward
152 Michael Suekawa
153 Ida Peric
154 Bradford Lum
155 Corey Asano
156 Ben Shafer
157 Brian Jahn
158 John M Souza
159 Kimo Polk
160 Danielle Anderson
161 Thomas Parel Jr.
162 Christian Chesson
163 Jeremiah Abreu
164 Nanea Lo
165 Tatyana Badon
166 Kainalu Golis
167 Jose Melara
168 Kiana Mojica
169 Rayden Keaulana
170 Nathan Stillmaker
171 Happy Zurowski
172 Dominic Thomas
173 Samuel Rivas
174 Logan Oshea
175 Cydney Holmes
176 Jessica Avila Franco
177 Glen Krzyska
178 Larson Aiwohi
179 Josh Forde
180 Nalukea Cleaver
181 Alex Berry
182 Autumn Cullum
183 David Baker
184 Carolyn Baker
185 Jason Leeds
186 Brian Soos
187 Cat Orlans

188 Angel Payne
189 Antonio Schimidt
190 Nathaniel Shannon
191 Andrew Johnson
192 Shannon Fisher-LaRue
193 Loretta Black
194 Jordan Chu
195 Abraham Swain
196 Marisa Rodriguez
197 Faye Joseph
198 Dylan Schmarr
199 Eric Christiansen
200 Julie Riddle
201 Julie Shoemaker
202 Enese Enesi
203 Georgia M
204 Angelina Sberna
205 Mary Jane Waligunda
206 Justin Cuesta-Herron
207 Tony Tomas
208 Michael Cox
209 Chloe Murphy
210 Theodora Gaspar
211 Ava Fedorov
212 Kiana Letizia
213 Glen FickBohm
214 Ryan Li
215 Mary Jo LoBianco
216 Tirzah Rodgers
217 Tracey Laronga
218 Bill Morris
219 Lorenzo Parks
220 Alex Sanchez
221 Judith Carroll
222 Waioni Dickison
223 Allen Lin
224 Krissy Yogi
225 Kimo Blanchard
226 Emalia Williams
227 Jeff McKnight
228 Tehani Ayau
229 Keoni Valencia
230 Heather Farinas-Krushensky
231 Collin Wong
232 Christian Lee
233 Luke DeSalvo
234 Steven Wu

235 Kerry Porter
236 Taylor Cunningham
237 Christian Li
238 Anthony Carvalho
239 Ricky-Keoni Phillips
240 Landon Li
241 Kayana Kona-Dux
242 Heather Fischer
243 Lee Anderson
244 Curtis Hutchinson
245 Danny Duncan
246 Eve Connie
247 Douglas Campbell
248 Elsworth Kaanaana
249 Alan Alexander
250 Aukai Pilago
251 Casey Malone
252 Lathan Aiwohi

From: [Adam Medeiros](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 9:07:45 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

Names on Form Letter (On Time)

- 1 Wailani Umi
- 2 Inner Quantum
- 3 Steven Streba
- 4 Monica Parker
- 5 Nelson Parker
- 6 Melanie Wills
- 7 Angel Currier
- 8 Douglas Campbell
- 9 Mary Bailey
- 10 (Mary Bailey) Maui Cannabis Conference
- 11 Candace Boxer
- 12 HS McQueen
- 13 David Craighead
- 14 Daryl Matthews
- 15 Marjorie Erway
- 16 Joseph Bobich
- 17 Thaddeus Pham
- 18 Lisa Freudenberger
- 19 K. Alohilani Hue Sing
- 20 Ira Leitel
- 21 Peter Beemer
- 22 Susan Kaintz Murphy
- 23 Gary Tocatlian
- 24 Malcolm Mack
- 25 Dr. Richard Liebmann
- 26 Torres Jennifer
- 27 Al Yos
- 28 Eve Connie

Late Form Letter Testimony

- 1 Angela Burdick
- 2 Sharilyn Shields
- 3 Miles Mulcahy
- 4 Zachary Stoddard

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:01:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Roth MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is important to decriminalize marijuana. Most people can use it recreationally without problems. If it becomes legal, it will be easier for the minority who require treatment of cannabis dependence to be identified and receive care.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:04:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Eisenstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stongly support **SB 686**. Marijuana is far safer than alcohol, so much so that to compare the two would be dishonest. Marijuana consumption and cultivation by adults should be allowed and commerical establishments should be permitted. I have been to numerous Dutch, "Coffee Shops", in the Netherlands and they are sober and safe places. People smoke and play chess, listen to music and talk story. They have nothing in common with alcohol bars. I was told by a Dutch police officer that while they frequently recieve complaints and calls involoving alcohol bars, they never recieve these from cannabis coffee shops. Permitting these establishments would bring one billion dollars a year to Hawaii, immediatly, in increased tourism from Asia and the Mainland. Asian young people love cannabis and would flock here, providing an enormous boost to Hawaii's economy, one which Hawaii desperately needs. Times change and cultural practices change. Marijuana, is one of humanities oldest and best plant resources and helper, due to it's many benefits. There is a reason, ancient people, (discovered and preserved in the ice, frequently have a bag of marijuana with them). This is well documented.

"Nearly two pounds of still-green plant material found in a 2,700-year-old grave in the Gobi Desert has just been identified as the world's oldest marijuana stash, according to a paper in the latest issue of the Journal of Experimental Botany.

A barrage of tests proves the [marijuana](#) possessed potent psychoactive properties and casts doubt on the theory that the ancients only grew the plant for hemp in order to make clothing, rope and other objects.

They apparently were [getting high](#) too.

Lead author Ethan Russo told Discovery News that the marijuana "is quite similar" to what's grown today.

"We know from both the chemical analysis and genetics that it could produce THC (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase, the main psychoactive chemical in the plant)," he explained, adding that no one could feel its effects today, due to decomposition over the millennia.

Russo served as a visiting professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Botany while conducting the study. He and his international team analyzed the cannabis, which was excavated at the Yanghai Tombs near Turpan, China. It was found lightly pounded in a wooden bowl in a leather basket near the head of a blue-eyed Caucasian man who died when he was about 45.

"This individual was buried with an unusual number of high value, rare items," Russo said, mentioning that the objects included a make-up bag, bridles, pots, archery equipment and a kongou harp. The researchers believe the individual was a shaman from the Gushi people, who spoke a now-extinct language called Tocharian that was similar to Celtic.

Scientists originally thought the plant material in the grave was coriander, but microscopic botanical analysis of the bowl contents, along with genetic testing, revealed that it was [cannabis](#).

...The size of seeds mixed in with the leaves, along with their color and other characteristics, indicate the marijuana came from a cultivated strain. Before the burial, someone had carefully picked out all of the male plant parts, which are less psychoactive, so Russo and his team believe there is little doubt as to why the cannabis was grown.

What is in question, however, is how the marijuana was administered, since no pipes or other objects associated with smoking were found in the grave.

"Perhaps it was ingested orally," Russo said. "It might also have been fumigated, as the Scythian tribes to the north did subsequently."

Although other cultures in the area [used hemp to make various goods](#) as early as 7,000 years ago, additional tomb finds indicate the Gushi fabricated their clothing from wool and made their rope out of reed fibers. The scientists are unsure if the marijuana was grown for more spiritual or medical purposes, but it's evident that the blue-eyed man was buried with a lot of it.

"As with other grave goods, it was traditional to place items needed for the afterlife in the tomb with the departed," Russo said.

The ancient marijuana stash is now housed at Turpan Museum in China. In the future, Russo hopes to conduct further research at the Yanghai site, which has 2,000 other tombs."

Also, the use of marijuana as a religious sacrament pre-dates the Western religions and marijuana was used as a sacrament, by people and religions in the region during the Biblical age. There is a Hindu sect that uses marijuana as a sacrament to this day. Hinduism is a recognized and respected religion. Legalizing adults use and

access to the cannabis (marijuana) plant poses few problems and many benefits. Please pass **SB 686**.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:20:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

Please do not sacrifice our children's lives and future just to raise revenue for reasons that are unimportant when compared to the costs in human misery. Allowing personal use of marijuana puts the drug into the hands of young teenagers. To think otherwise is naive and exhibits a lack of understanding of human nature. Because it is legal, youngsters can get alcohol easily; we all know that. It will be the same with marijuana. With legalization, expect to see and encounter drug deals being made on school property and kids showing up - if they do at all - to class stoned. And when things go from bad to worse, expect to see more homelessness, more youngsters involved with opioids, more youngsters engaging in criminal activity...yes, it will get worse.

The bill cites numerous states having already legalized marijuana. But what you don't cite are the results in terms of the impact to the health of individuals and communities. Has violence gone up or down? Has school attendance gone down or stayed the same? Number of traffic accidents/deaths from marijuana use? Hospital cases? Worker productivity? Homelessness? Increased gang activity? More young people with psychosis? Where is the research? An issue such as this one deserves to be researched. It's the responsible thing to do!

It seems that what you are really interested in is the revenue legalization will generate. Please tell me that's not true, that you would put money before our children, your children.

I urge you to vote a resounding "NO!" on SB686.

Sincerely,

Alfred Hagen

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:59:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thayne Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to thank all those who have worked very hard to bring this bill up for consideration. It is now time for Hawaii to legalize a herb that we all know has many therapeutic benefits and has shown to be an effective deterrant to opioid and methamphetamine use. More over, cannabis use is not addicting and does not have the damaging effects of alcohol which has been legal for decades. It is time for Hawaii to take part in the economic boom that is taking place in states that have legalized cannabis for personal use. The market for legalized cannabis is expected to exceed 20 billion dollars in 2019 with projected increases of 10 to 20 percent per year. Hawaii is the ideal market for legalized cannabis, not only for growing and selling locally but it is my hope that soon, in the not to distant future, exporting to the US and other nations around the world. Imagine what Hawaii would be able to do with the additional tax revenues. Imagine the dent it would make on opioid and methamphetamine use. Legalizing cannabis for personal use is the right thing to do. Thank you for your time.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:45:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

The legalization of marijuana is long overdue for Hawaii. We should not criminalize people for its use and filling up courts and jail cells for a plant that has shown to have great promise for relief from pain and anxiety. Legalize and tax marijuana now.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:09:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Kusakabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana in Hawaii. As a resident with over 50 years in the islands, I have seen many changes over the decades, and this change would be detrimental to our islands.

After reading about Colorado's increase of homelessness, the influx of illegal marijuana growers, damage to the eco system, increase in violence and car accidents after legalizing it there, how can we even consider this as an option for our state?

Please, reconsider the effects on our families and vote against SB686.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:23:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelbi Pascua	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose

Legalization Testimony January 31 2019
SB 686

To: Ke Kōmike Ho‘okolokolo--COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY: Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho‘omalua/Chair Kenekoa/Senator Glenn Wakai, Hope Luna Ho‘omalua/Vice Chair

From: Wendy Gibson RN/BSN, Cannabis Nurse Educator

RE: SB686 Relating to Marijuana—In Strong Support

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members,

Please consider passing SB686, a bill that that would legalize adult use cannabis. As a Cannabis Nurse Educator and Conscientious Objector to the War on Drugs, I support this bill for many reasons:

- 1) **SB686 addresses all of the necessary details** to create a safe and effective “Tax and Regulate” structure that has been used in other States. This bill legalizes the personal use, growing, possession, and sale of a specified quantity of marijuana. It requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments, and payment of excise and income taxes.
- 2) **Criminalization was never based upon any scientific evidence of harm to society** from this non-toxic plant. Marijuana became highly illegal (a Schedule I “drug” in the Controlled Substances Act) because President Nixon wanted to **criminalize anti-war protestors**, people who used routinely used the herb, peacefully and recreationally.
- 3) This needless **prohibition** (criminalization) **has caused more harm to society than actual drug use has**, leading to the formation of drug cartels, violent law enforcement actions, mass incarceration with destruction of entire communities (mostly poor people of color and Kanaka Maoli), PTSD from incarceration and forced rehab, a clogged criminal justice system and an opioid overdose crisis—all without any reduction in use or demand for the “drug” Marijuana. Criminalization of cannabis use needs to end, to remove these harms to society. We know that the risks and harms of cannabis are lower than those of tobacco or alcohol.
- 4) **10 states plus Washington D.C. and Canada** all chose to end prohibition (for adults) and the sky has not fallen—we did not witness all of the UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES that fear-mongering prohibitionists predicted. Teen use did not go up (but rates of Senior citizen use DID increase about 250%). There is no evidence of an increase in traffic fatalities, rates of schizophrenia , hopeless addictions, violence or deaths.
- 5) We can take lessons from the States and Countries that have legalized, using their guidelines to educate users about cannabis safety with edibles, driving, dosing, and partying .

- 6) **Money made from sales can be put to good use:** In Colorado, more than nine million dollars was earmarked for medical cannabis research. Cannabis Researcher, Dr. Sue Sisley's received 2.1 million of that money for her PTSD study for Veterans.
- 7) **Most people (80-98%) use intoxicating substances** can and do use them **responsibly**. Anybody who uses alcohol, such as a glass of wine or beer to relax after work or in a social environment can attest to that.
- 8) We may see some **UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES that are beneficial** such as:
 - a. **A reduction of the use of other, more harmful substances.** Many studies are showing that cannabis is replacing the use of other recreational substances, especially alcohol (by 25%). One study indicates that it can reduce cravings for heroin or methamphetamine and reduce damage from it. Others studies show that it may be useful in reducing withdrawal symptoms, for those trying to wean themselves off of opiates or alcohol.
 - b. **Reduction of stress.** Many deadly disease processes are related to stress and inflammation: Heart disease, GI problems, stroke and cancer are a few. Cannabis, when used properly can be good at relieving both stress and inflammation.
 - c. **An end to incarceration of non-violent people.**

And finally, as an adult person who does not wish to drink alcohol (a known carcinogen and depressant), **I would prefer to be able to legally use cannabis** for socialization and stress management.

Please help push SB686 forward. I believe the time has come to create sensible drug policies in Hawaii to replace the outmoded policies in place.

Sincerely,

Wendy Gibson RN/BSN, Cannabis Nurse Educator
(808) 321-4503
3929 Lanipili Place
Honolulu, HI 96816
Wendygibson9@gmail.com

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:38:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Rittenberry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:57:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sean fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support legalization. Support patient to patient. But limiting plant count to 6 is crippling and not enough for medicine for a medical patient. Thank you for all you do but please don't limit plant count to 6, please consider 10-25 plant count. Mahalo

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:39:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done by prohibition and bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely, Matt Binder

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:48:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond Catania	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Judiciary,

I support SB686. Too many folks, especially non-whites thrown in jail having criminal records for life. Too many good people have been branded for life. End the war on Pakalolo-Legalize marijuana now.

mahalo,

Ray Catania 4215vKole lace, Puhī 96766 may11nineteen71@gmail.com

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:16:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs to move forward now on legalizing marijuana. Other states are reaping the rewards of increases sales tax and income revenue. We desperately need these funds for schools, affordable housing, homeless assistance, and infrastructure. Please pass this bill onto the next committee. Let's not let another year go by with no action on this issue!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:44:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie and Thomas Pasquale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:05:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please combine with SB606.

Please legalize or at least decriminalize marijuana for those age 18-21, and/or expunge a person's record at age 21.

Thank you,

Paul Marshall

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:54:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee McIntosh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh and I live in Kau on the Big Island. Please do not legalize recreational marijuana. Studies are now being conducted that show marijuana is indeed a dangerous drug despite popular belief. It significantly slows down the thought process and reflexes, endangering innocent bystanders if they hold a high-risk job or drive. Surrendering your driver's license should be a requirement if you proceed with legalizing recreational marijuana. It can cause adverse reactions and leads to use of more dangerous drugs. Secondhand smoke from marijuana is worse than tobacco products, some studies even going so far as to claim that it's more potent than actually using it. This endangers children who are nearby, permanently damaging their brains. I implore that you at the very least wait until more comprehensive studies have been done, choosing to focus on protecting the health of our keiki and individuals such as myself who refrain from using drugs rather than on more money for the legislature to spend. Mahalo for reading and considering my comments regarding SB686.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:57:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan L Howery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1/29/2019

To the Senate Committee,

My name is Jonathan Howery and I am in favor of bill SB686.

I currently live in Kakaako and have called Hawaii home for nearly 8 years. I came out here to advance my education through HPU and stayed because of the natural beauty and the community. People on the aina are open, honest, fun loving, respectful, share aloha everyday with each other.

One part of the community that also exists are those that use marijuana/cannabis. This type of community is full of people who welcome others, share openly, and are friendly and inclusive.

I first started using marijuana in 2017 when I was diagnosed with a spinal cyst. This causes irregular and frequent pain which I went to my doctor and received a Medical 329 Card for. I have witnessed and experienced the relief that comes from using marijuana in daily life. I am a medical marijuana patient and will continue to be one, however I believe that adults that use marijuana are responsible members of society and should be allowed to purchase this substance legally.

I have purchased marijuana myself in outside markets, such as in California, Oregon, and Washington state. From places as small as mom and pop head shops to larger scale convenience styled establishments. At first I was overwhelmed, having coming

from Hawaii to see the wide variety of medicinal use products they offer in other markets. Yet having experienced purchasing in a stigma free environment where you're not afraid to use or carry was refreshing. Not to mention security was easier to pass through.

There are many market models that Hawaii can glean from, as well as success stories that legalizing marijuana brings. Increase tax revenue, new businesses, increase in job opportunities, and decriminalization brings greater stability for the State of Hawaii. Legalizing will also bring better standards for production and certifies products in a safer quality checked manner. Easier access to marijuana also takes people away from more dangerous substances like alcohol, opioids, etc, where overdose statistics exist in national form to show that marijuana is the safest alternative.

I want to thank the committee for allowing me to submit testimony. I am in favor of SB686 to legalize marijuana for personal use.

THE SENATE
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

January 29, 2019

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR

RE: SB 686, RELATING TO MARIJUANA – IN OPPOSITION

As a member of the community, a parent and a healthcare professional I am opposed to Senate Bill 686 and to legalizing the use of recreational marijuana. The State has just recently completed a long and difficult process to promulgate the rules and regulations needed to enact legislation related to the use of marijuana for medical purposes. And I don't believe that this process has been fully vetted to safety at all levels. Now, at a time when there are so many more important issues facing the State of Hawai'i, the legalization of recreational marijuana is being proposed.

I am opposed to this legislation for the following reasons:

- 1) While it is known that smoking marijuana has effects similar to the consumption of alcohol, there is no effective way to determine what constitutes impairment in situations such as driving and other activities when full awareness, reflexes and judgement are critical.
- 2) The potential for non-intended consequences for non-users associated with exposure to recreational marijuana in its various forms. *JAMA Pediatrics* published an article in 2016 titled "Unintentional Pediatric Exposure to Marijuana in Colorado, 2009-2015. This original research reported on the incidence of marijuana exposures evaluated at one children's hospital and a regional poison center (RPC) in Colorado before and after the legalization of recreational marijuana. This exposure data was compared to data from the rest of the United States. The retrospective cohort study looked at hospital admission and RPC cases between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2015 at Children's Hospital Colorado, a tertiary care children's hospital in Aurora, CO. Participants included patients age 0 – 9 years who were seen & evaluated at the hospital's emergency department, urgent care centers or inpatient unit. Regional Poison Control center cases included in the study were single-substance marijuana exposures from Colorado. Results of the research showed that the RPC rate of marijuana exposure cases increased by 34% per year between 2009 and 2015 compared to an average increase of 19% for the remainder of the United States. The children's hospital also experienced an increase in marijuana exposure visits. The article provides information on age of the child at time of exposure, the site of exposure, route of exposure and other relevant information. The complete article can be found online as follows:

JAMA Pediatr. 2016;170(9):e160971.doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2016.0971. Published online July 25, 2016.

Testimony of Susan Slavish Opposing SB 686 relating to Marijuana

January 29, 2019

Page 2

The article references above is only one of a number of resources that provide information on potential issues and concerns associated with unanticipated outcomes related to legalization of both medical and recreational marijuana. I strongly urge the committee to do due diligence by investigating this aspect of the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes before moving forward with this legislation.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB 686.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Slavish
47-079 Kamehameha Hwy
Kaneohe, Hawai`i 96744

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:05:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai & members of committee:

I'm in strong support of SB686: legalizing cannabis for adult use. I have learned about the amazing medical uses for cannabis (including for for treating epilepsy & cancer, and so much more!) & feel it is so important to reduce the negative stigma about cannabis, so that more people can learn of the great health benefits ~with no toxic side effects.

Other states have ended criminalization and the medical use has increased greatly, including people being able to grow their own medicine ~saving them *so much* money.

I also think the state needs the revenue that can be brought in ~to use for treating addiction to alcohol and drugs, legal & illegal. ~For over 25 years, whenever I've needed to refer someone to treatment for addiction ,there's been a six month waiting list, which is tragic, with people's lives and families so much at risk.

Addiction is a public health issue, not a crime. We need to expunge the records of the thousands who now have criminal records due to cannabis possession.

We have a great chance here to increase revenue and make a positive difference in so many ways.

Thank you for listening,

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:13:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done by prohibition and bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers.

I encourage you to strongly support this bill.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:00:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Albritton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and committee members,

I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 686 Relating to Marijuana.

So far, the District of Columbia, Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington have decriminalized marijuana, adding hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue to state coffers.

Many of those states have turned those funds into a dedicated funding source for their public schools.

Please support the regulation and taxation of an industry that has thrived in the black market for far too long.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:41:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:33:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the committee,

Please pass SB686. Other states have done it and the sky has not fallen. Legalized pakalolo would 1) increase revenues to the state, 2) increase revenues to the counties, 3) put our fallow ag lands to good use, 4) increase the number of people who would be able to make a living in ag and 5) allow people to grow and share marijuana with their friends and family for both medicinal and recreational use.

Hawaii marijuana is extremely well branded. Maybe the best known cannabis product in the U.S. People would pay a premium for our pakalolo. The cannabis industry would provide employment for hundreds, if not thousands, of people who struggle to survive financially at or near the current minimum wage of \$10.10 an hour.

Finally, many products are made of marijuana. The legalization of pot would lead to dozens of new cannabis businesses. This has been shown on the mainland where recreational marijuana has been legalized. Poll after poll has shown Americans more and more willing to support legal marijuana. The trend is clear. People want legalized pot.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:53:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iana Papke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's move this forward. Not only is it getting people off nasty medication, it keeps people less stressed, less domestic violence. People drink less on marijuana. But most of all it is happening anyways and we could use those tax dollars to improve our schools and community. Let's do this!!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:45:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I support SB686. It's about time Hawaii joins the many other states in legalizing marijuana for personal use. The tax revenue will benefit the state's coffers. Mahalo.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:54:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
miryeha cedar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done by prohibition and bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

Miryeha Cedar

Testimony on SB686, Relating to Marijuana

Senate Judiciary Committee

Thursday, January 31, 2019

9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donna Van Osdol, a resident from Mililani. I STRONGLY oppose this bill for the following reasons listed below.

Hawaii already has thousands of citizens, children especially, that suffer from asthma or other respiratory conditions like COPD that have been caused by secondhand smoke, year-round flowering of our flora, vog, and the dispersement of all the allergens such as dust and dirt caused by wind. Another type of smoke will only exacerbate and add more misery and suffering from these ailments. I am one of those. Whenever I smell marijuana I will always get a nasty headache.

We have tens of thousands of residents in Hawaii working for the federal government and local companies whose jobs require them to have clarity of mind. Certain jobs, like linemen, because they work on high voltage utility lines, especially, need to ALWAYS have clear thinking in order to make sound judgments. Elevator workers, window washers, electricians, carpenters working on rooftops, also need to be able to think coherently. Hence, to ensure employees are drug free, tests are done on a regular basis. The smoke of marijuana can stay in a strand of hair for several months and in a person's body for 30 days.

Most importantly, if federal requirements demand drug free employees, how will this bill, if enacted, affect those in Hawaii working at our shipyards or military bases?

I also fear that many of our people on welfare will use their monies for the purchase of marijuana rather than food for their families because marijuana like other drugs are used as an escape from reality.

We already have a high incident of deaths caused by alcohol or those texting while driving or simply not paying attention to road conditions (such as watching out for our elderly pedestrians), so my concern is having another bad element causing yet more accidents.

Lastly, do we want all of our newborn babies drugged by marijuana smoke?

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:09:45 AM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dain retzlaff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's time to join the other jurisdictions that have legalized cannabis and to focus law enforcement on issues that are actually a problem.

Thank you

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:11:31 AM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Me	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

From: [Roger Christie](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 686
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:23:04 AM



Testimony for SB 686 to Legalize Cannabis in Hawaii by 3pm on Wednesday January 30th.

Name	Roger Christie
Email	RogerChristie@gmail.com
Subject	Aloha. I support Bill SB686 with amendments.

I appreciate the intention of those who introduced it, but SB686 falls far short of fully repealing the harmful prohibition of Cannabis hemp, or "marijuana" that We the people have suffered under for far too long. We want, need, deserve and demand full and free access to the natural, God given plant Cannabis now.

Cannabis is arguably the most important and essential plant on Earth for the health, wealth, happiness and spiritual well being of We the people. Government has no - rightful - jurisdiction to prohibit, or regulate it. Cannabis is a plant, not a drug. They are two vastly different things. "You can make a drug from a plant, but you can't make a plant from a drug."

I strongly support the effort to fully repeal all forms of Cannabis hemp, or "marijuana" prohibition in Hawai'i this legislative session. That being said, the very first sentence of this newly proposed legalization law in Hawai'i has multiple false statements in it, and the bill falls far short of what We the people need, want, deserve and demand. One ounce would be "legal"? Six plants, three 'mature' would be "legal"? It sounds more like "prohibition 2.0" to me. A baby-step, but no pass.

1.). As far as I know the legal history of Cannabis hemp in the United States was that it was fully legal with no - zero - restrictions, regulations, permits or licenses required to grow, possess or sell it for the majority of the country's 243 year history. We deserve as

much, or more today.

2.). Cannabis hemp was called "cannabis", or "hemp", but not "marijuana" until the late 1800's and early 1900's. The word is prejudicial as it's based on negative racial stereotypes from the last century and needs to be removed/corrected from all government mentions immediately. Using the word virtually guarantees a conviction in court cases and is blatantly unfair, unjust and unconstitutional.

3.). Most of the founders of the U.S.A. were large, commercial growers and sellers of Cannabis hemp making it a legal precedent and Grandfathered-into modern day common law.

Examples:

a. "Sow the hemp seed everywhere." Geo. Washington.

b. "Hemp is of the first necessity to the wealth and protection of the nation." Thom. Jefferson.

The U.S.A. was founded on principles of religious freedom and built with massive quantities of Cannabis for food, fibers, medicines and much more. The freedom to farm all of God's natural plant gifts including Cannabis hemp is so fundamental that it's bizarre to have to advocate for it in the year 2019, but here we are.

We recommend allowing twenty-four Cannabis plants, or more to be cultivated at home with no license, permit or registration needed. Twenty-four Cannabis plants is currently a misdemeanor in Hawaii Revised Statutes and has long been considered "personal use".

We the people have suffered a long train of abuses under the old, unnecessary and unconstitutional harm and fraud of "marijuana" prohibition which continues to this day; it must be STOPPED immediately.

Please amend SB686 to secure the generous and legal home cultivation, possession, use, manufacture and sales of Cannabis hemp now.

"Let freedom ring!" Thank you.

@@@

Aloha Senate JDC Chair,

I am writing you today to strongly support SB 686 which would legalize cannabis in the state of Hawaii.

This is a long overdue measure that would not only help our state's economy but more importantly drastically improve the lives of thousands of residents. As you know the failed war on drugs has incarcerated thousands of non-violent persons who now have an even harder time making it in our difficult island economy and supporting their families. Additionally, there are so many residents who can benefit from cannabis for medical conditions not outlined in our medical program.

Cannabis is far less harmful than alcohol and once legalized we have increased opportunities to educate our youth on safe, responsible, adult-use just like other products.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and passing this bill puts us one step closer to a more compassionate harmonious society which you will have a hand in creating.

From: [Chris Ritson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:31:35 PM

LATE

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members: I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis.

I suffer from epilepsy and have found relief from debilitating seizures through cannabis. I currently rely Cannabis as an add on to my anti epileptic therapy. I cannot stress how much this plant has helped me and feel compelled to share my experience in the hopes of continuing to the de-stigmatization of this valuable plant. Humans have used Cannabis medicinally for over 4000 years with no negative side effects yet it remains illegal. I feel fortunate that times are changing and people are beginning to get access, but there is still so much to learn. Having experienced debilitating side effects from multiple drugs, the gentle wholistic qualities of cannabis are an undeniable ally. Please treat this plant with the utmost respect - that is the only way we can move forward to provide compassionate care for so many in need.

Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider: 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair; 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs; 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must

not exclude them from participating. Sincerely,

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www.chrisritson.com

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From: [Glorianna Stokes wickersham](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:30:20 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider: Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs; as well as investing monies into our schools.

Sincerely,

Glorianna Stokes-Wickersham

Date: January 30, 2019
To: Chair Karl Rhoads

Members of the Senate 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 SB 686 Relating to Marijuana

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong opposition to SB 686 relating to marijuana.

Parents Opposed to Pot (POP) makes the following points.

- 1) Legalization is promoted as a get rich quick scheme.
- 2) Like the cigarette industry, the marijuana industry targets young and under-aged users need to get “hooked” on their product.
- 3) Once recreational marijuana use is legalized, it conveys the erroneous belief that pot use is harmless.
- 4) It raises the risk for workers who care for children. POP provided an example of a crane operator in Philadelphia killing 6 and injured 13 while demolishing a building. He tested positive for recent usage of marijuana.
- 5) Most of the young people who have died from heroin began their drug use with marijuana.
- 6) Claims that legalization will bring in tax money don't account for the cost of drug abuse, drug education and health care.
- 7) Sweden and Denmark tightened their laws on marijuana and saw all forms of drug abuse go down.
- 8) Marijuana is not safer than alcohol. There are 450,000 hospital emergency room visits for marijuana in the US each year, higher than for alcohol, and this alone is a huge public health cost. While driving stoned is slightly less risky than driving drunk, stoned driving is not safe at all, and has been the cause of many deaths in Colorado since 2009, when medical marijuana became an industry.
- 9) Despite the popularity and high cost of marijuana in Colorado, the taxes have fallen short of expectation and don't include the other societal costs, including children killed in fires and toddlers taken to hospital emergency room after ingesting marijuana edibles.

10) The downward spiral of starting with marijuana, then advancing to opiate pain killers, and then onto to heroin (sometimes with cocaine and ecstasy in the mix) is typical.

A few states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana. You mentioned that in the bill, but has our legislature looked at the consequences in states which have allowed it?

Colorado's Focus on the Family reports that in their state (which legalized recreational marijuana use in 2013) that there has been increased police actions, increased traffic accidents, increased illegal drug activity, deaths from overdoses, and increased marijuana use by minors.

*Health Consequences. Consider the effects of long-term marijuana use such as chronic lung disease and cancer. How does it impair concentration, learning, memory, judgment and work performance?

*It is still illegal under federal law.

*It can lead to the use of other addictive and more dangerous drugs such as heroin.

And the list goes on. For the foregoing reasons, please vote against the SB 686. Thank you for this opportunity to allow me to share my concerns.

Very truly yours,

Sandra Young

SANDRA YOUNG

From: [Destiny Brown](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Re: Click here to support Marijuana Legalization - Destiny Brown
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:41:32 AM



Click here to support Marijuana Legalization

Name	Destiny Brown
Your Email Address	destinysharion87@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of SB686
Message	<p>Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, members,</p> <p>I strongly support the legalization, regulation and taxation of adult-use recreational cannabis in the State of Hawai'i. This is a common sense drug policy reform that is long overdue.</p> <p>Please support SB686. Mahalo,</p>

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

‘A’OHE PU’U KI’EKI’E KE HO’A’O ‘IA E PI’I

LATE



Top 20 reasons why Hawaii should provide all Hawaiian’s Safe, Affordable Access to Cannabis

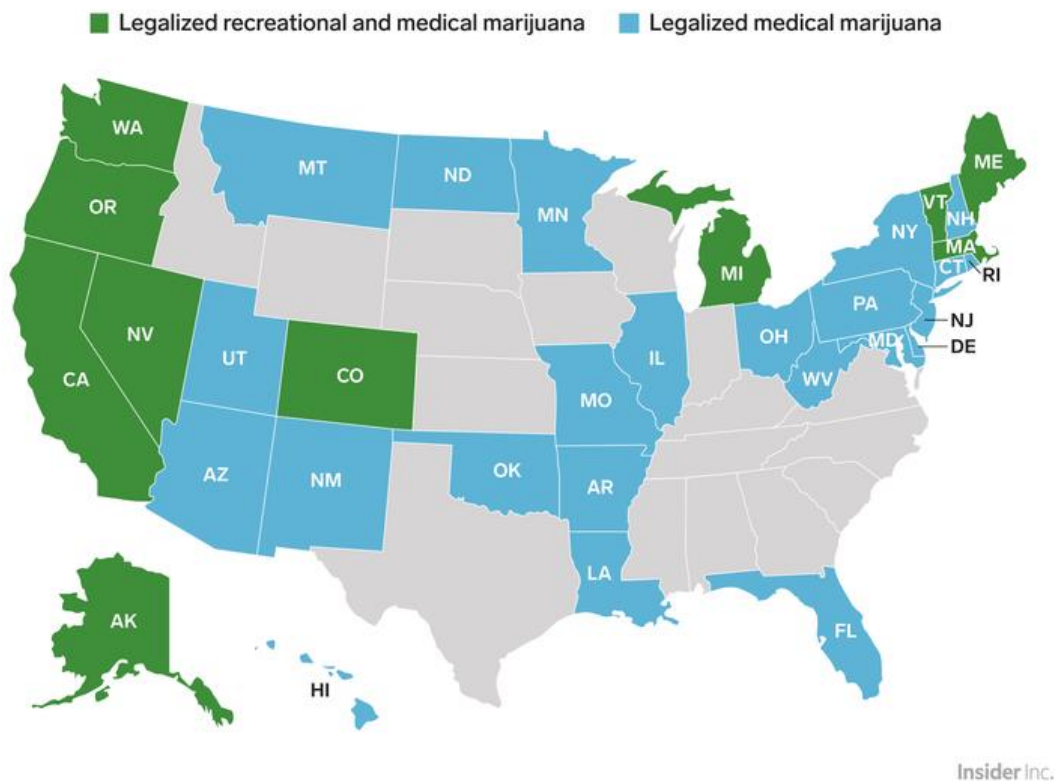
- Slows and stop cancer cells from spreading
- Prevents Alzheimer's
- Treats glaucoma
- Relieves arthritis
- Controls epileptic seizures
- Eases the pain of multiple sclerosis

- Soothes tremors for people with Parkinson's disease
- Helps with Cohn's disease
- Decreases symptoms of HIV/AIDS, nausea, increases appetite
- Lessens the side effects of hepatitis c - increases the treatment effectiveness
- Decreases anxiety
- Helps reverse carcinogens from tobacco and improve lung health
- Reduces severe pain nausea from chemo and stimulates appetite
- Improves symptoms of Lupus; an autoimmune disorder
- Protect protects brain after stroke
- Helps veterans suffering from PTSD
- Controls other types of muscle spasms
- Treats inflammatory bowel diseases
- Helps eliminate nightmares
- Protects the brain from conscious concussions and trauma

More reasons why Hawaii should legalize Cannabis for all Hawaiian's

ADULT RECREATIONAL USE GENERATES TAX DOLLARS

States where marijuana is legal



Currently, 33 states and D.C. allow medical cannabis and 10 states and D.C. have legalized cannabis for adult use. None of these states have made any effort to repeal the legalization.

According to surveys from the Pew Research Center, **62 percent of those surveyed support legalization.** A recent Gallup poll found 66 percent of Americans support legalization.

Colorado passed a 10 percent sales tax on top of the 2.9 percent standard sales tax rate to retail cannabis plus a 15 percent excise tax to the wholesale price of retail cannabis.

According to the Colorado Department of Revenue, **money from cannabis taxes, licenses and fees have increased from about \$67 million in 2014 to about \$266 million in 2018.**

According to studies from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Office of Research and Statistics, **excise tax revenue dedicated to school construction assistance was about \$40 million in 2017 and an additional \$28 million was dedicated to the public school fund.**

There have been many misunderstandings about what adult use actually means and it is important to remember that this is a well regulated industry — one that could bring in much-needed revenue to West Virginia and end the large black market.

In New York: The Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday reaffirmed its commitment to creating a model program for controlled recreational marijuana use in New York State.

"As we have said since August, the goal of this administration is to create a model program for regulated adult-use cannabis — and the best way to do that is to ensure our final proposal captures the views of everyday New Yorkers,"

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

My name is Rick Pantele and I am providing testimony from California as a medical marijuana patient and advocate in support of SB686.

As a three-time non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer survivor, a UCLA bone marrow transplant recipient and 30 + year, HIV patient, I assure you I am qualified to discuss medical marijuana.

As one of the charter members of the Palm Springs Medical Marijuana task force, formed over 12 years ago. Our Mayor, Councilmembers, City Manager, Attorney and Police Chief worked to structure an ordinance which became the first of its kind.

Palm Springs was the first legal medical marijuana city in Riverside County. Since then I have continued to work on making the ordinance better including taxes, application fees, and addressing the black market problem we faced after legalization in 2018.

I've also assisted in cannabis ordinances in Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Cathedral City and have been asked to speak before the State Assembly in Sacramento.

My experience has allowed me to see medical marijuana go from illegal to legal.... from a bad thing to a good thing. I think you realize this now also.

I know that the time for change in Hawaii is now. You must let go of the fear and know that no negative impact has come from the legalization of cannabis in Palm Springs, California or anywhere. None

Facts show only positive things are happening. When it became law, no one was upset and still today... no one is unhappy.

Young people did not rush out and start smoking marijuana.

Patients we're happier and healthier. The economy was clearly infused with money as commerce took off in the construction, real estate and business investments, jobs, tourism sectors.

The fear that marijuana would destroy our town or our state is simply unfounded. It is a stigma and nothing more. I trust that the good leaders of Hawaii will also see, understand and recognize all of the above important factors.

This is important to me. If I could get on a plane and be present to speak with you I would. I care about Hawaii and my concerns for Hawaii are real.

I love and respect Hawaii for its people and culture. I have lived in Hawaii for several years in Kihei and plan on retiring there soon. While I live on island I owned a business and employed awesome Hawaiians to help run my business.

I consider this new industry is an addition the Hawaiians agriculture economy. It will bring new types of jobs and extend and save lives. All new data now shows it causes no harm.

I have put together 4 pages of important, current research, facts and statistics, regarding the benefits of marijuana and CBD/

Specifically for Hawaii, I chose to focus on **Diabetes**. Please take the time to read the studies on cannabis and diabetes. You'll also note that shows cannabis reduces stress and therefore adult use recreational marijuana use would be preferable to alcohol.

I do not need to elaborate on the high rate of diabetes with Hawaiians. Nor do not need to go into the detrimental effects of alcohol and alcoholism; the lives and families destroyed are all too prevalent in society.

New studies show that cannabis actually helps in both alcohol and opioid addiction, which lowers the state budget dealing with the effects of the diseases.

It is time to climb to the cliff and discover the view. Try not to let your fears discourage. It is time to move into the future and accept and that there's no reason to wait and longer.

Please do the right thing and create law that is good for everyone. Good for patients, good for the people, good for the economy, good for the agricultural, manufacturing and tourism sectors, three of the top five income generators in Hawaii.

I close with a personal story. Both of my parents died of cancer. They has small cell lung cancer, from cigarettes. Both died in my arms. My father was golfing on a Monday and told the next day that he has less than 90 days to live.

Neither of my parents had ever smoke marijuana... but in their last days, both of them asked me if they could smoke marihuana and they did.

The immediate effects of reduced nausea led to an appetite which led to comfort which led to a better nights rest. Their last day on earth, knowing they were dying was more peaceful, less stressful and there was laughter.

No morphine, No alcohol or any prescriptions drug could ever produce or improve these comforting end of life conditions.

As President Lincoln once pointed out (referring to those who hold office) that you are **“clothed with immense power”**.

Please understand the seriousness of your decision and its effect on people. Your power can offer the ability for patients and to have safe, affordable access to medication and provide better health and wellness for Hawaiians. In the process you will jumpstart commerce in a new and exciting industry.

Big Mahalo's your way...

Rick Pantele

Diabetes is deadly, debilitating, and costly. There is a dire need for solutions to help prevent the disease and treat the myriad symptoms without the inflated costs associated with the U.S. healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. **Research has found cannabis can help those diagnosed with either type 1 or 2 diabetes, and those who suffer complications,** and a landmark study published in the American Journal of Medicine in 2013 said marijuana compounds can also help control blood sugar.



The Diabetes Epidemic and the Need for Change

Diabetes is one of the most prevalent, and hard to treat, diseases today. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), over 100 million U.S. adults are now living with diabetes or prediabetes. Worldwide, it is estimated that 8.5% of adults have diabetes, up from 4.7% in 1980. **Besides contributing to early deaths, diabetes is also a “major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and lower limb amputation.”**

The disease not only has a profound effect on the people diagnosed with it. Increasingly, the costs of treating the disease are placing a strain on individuals and the U.S. healthcare system.

According to the American Diabetes Association, **in 2017 the total estimated cost of diagnosed diabetes was \$327 billion--\$90 billion of which was attributed to reduced productivity.**

A staggering 1 in 4 health care dollars in the U.S. were spent on people diagnosed with diabetes.

Why Marijuana Is a Power Plant for People with Diabetes

In at least 10 Pacific island countries, more than 50 percent (and in some, up to 90 percent) of the population is overweight according to World Health Organization surveys.

Obesity prevalence ranges from more than 30 percent in Fiji to an eye-opening 80 percent among women in American Samoa, a territory of the United States.

Almost 50 percent of the Pacific island region's population of 10 million has been diagnosed with a noncommunicable disease, notably cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and hypertension.

These diseases account for 75 percent of all deaths across the Pacific archipelago and 40–60 percent of total healthcare expenditure.

“We have countries that cannot afford insulin, so the treatment for diabetes is amputation of lower limbs,” said Tindall, a member of the board of directors of the National Cannabis Chamber of Commerce.

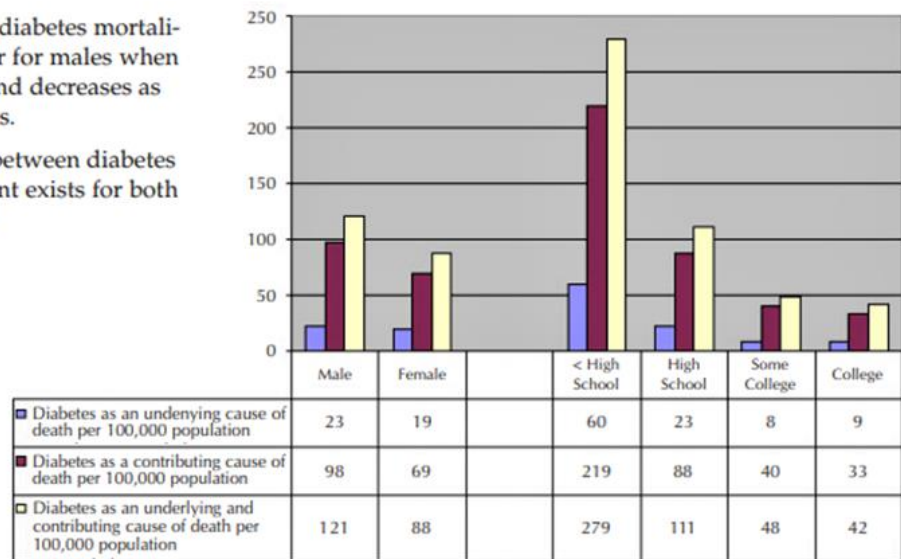
The largest cause of death in South Pacific females is cervical cancer; as there is little or no access to chemotherapy or radiotherapy. “It’s hysterectomy or death,” said Tindall.

“The US Food and Drug Administration doesn’t care someone in Vanuatu loses a foot,” he said. **“Their amputation rate is a literally foot a day.** We were motivated by the passion to provide healthcare services, knowing we could manufacture down there and achieve global capacity and service so many more countries.”

FIGURE 11: Diabetes mortality rates per 100,000 population by gender and educational level, 2000-2002*

FINDING: Age-adjusted diabetes mortality rates are slightly higher for males when compared with females and decreases as educational level increases.

The inverse relationship between diabetes and educational attainment exists for both prevalence and mortality.



*3-year average, age-adjusted



UCLA Cannabis Research Initiative

The UCLA Cannabis Research Initiative (UCLA-CRI) is one of the first academic programs in the world dedicated to the study of cannabis.

The UCLA CRI is supported by the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and the UCLA Brain Research Institute.

Despite unprecedented access to cannabis, over half a century of research restrictions and limited funding have contributed to a lack of scientific knowledge about cannabis, particularly in regards to the potential therapeutic use. While our initial priority is to investigate the therapeutic potential and health risk of cannabis, our mission is the interdisciplinary study of all facets of cannabis' effect on society, including legal, economic, and social impact.

The UCLA-CRI will provide timely education, research, and service to lead public policy and public health decisions regarding cannabis.



The FDA has approved three cannabinoids as drugs.

In 2018, the agency approved Epidiolex (cannabidiol or CBD) oral solution for the treatment of seizures associated with two rare, severe forms of epilepsy.

This drug is derived from marijuana. The FDA has also approved the synthetic cannabinoids dronabinol and nabilone to treat nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in people who have already taken other medicines to treat these symptoms without good results. **Dronabinol is also approved to treat loss of appetite and weight loss in people with AIDS.**

From: [Glen P. Young](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: No on SB686 Relating to Marijuana
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 12:15:44 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Chang [<mailto:user@votervoice.net>]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Sen. Karl Rhoads <SenRhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: No on SB686 Relating to Marijuana

Dear Senator Rhoads,

Every time pro-pot propagandists put out their message, they send a message to the children that pot is harmless. The issue of pot legalization is not about adult users and their freedom, but the deceptive messages aimed at the young. This message can only get stronger after marijuana advertising becomes legal.

Please vote no on SB 686. The protection of our keiki should be a top priority of the legislature.

Sincerely,

Eric Chang
15 Craigsid PI Apt 902
Honolulu, HI 96817
southshore552000@yahoo.com



From: [Arnold Rabin](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Re: Testimony in support of SB686
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:23:19 AM

What I sent:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. As a Realtor for almost 40 years in Kona, I have seen an unending levying of tsxes on our population including General Excise tax and HARPTA which thwarts investment and stifles our economy. Tax revenues from marijuana could go to education and sorely needed infrastructure as well as creating affordable housing.

Mahalo;

Arnold Rabin R,GRI

License # 10966

Cell: [808-987-1817](tel:808-987-1817)

Office :[808-322-3677](tel:808-322-3677)

Toll Free Fax: [866-308-7084](tel:866-308-7084)

Address: 79-7394 Mamalahoa
Kealahakua, HI. 96750

Web www.konaproperty.com

License # 18008

On Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 10:20 AM Arnold Rabin <rabin@konaproperty.com> wrote:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in strong support of SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis. As a Realtor for almost 40 years in Kona, I have seen an unending levying of tsxes on our population including General Excise tax and HARPTA which thwarts investment and stifles our economy. Tax revenues from marijuana could go to education and sorely needed infrastructure as well as creating affordable housing.

Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done and start bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers. I ask that you also consider:

- 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records. That is only fair;
- 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs;
- 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,
Arnold Rabin

January 30, 2019

LATE

Subject: S.B. NO. 686 RELATING TO MARIJUANA

Aloha Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui loa for taking the initiative and moving this bill forward through the State Senate. Mahalo for your leadership and nerve to push forward an agenda that many political representatives and civil servants are too scared to champion, let alone speak about publically. Hawai'i has waited far too long now to take the proper actions to decriminalize a plant, a natural remedy, that has been stigmatized and politically manipulated by the United States government for dubious reasons.

Until Hawai'i decriminalizes personal use, and legalizes the proper channels for local businesses and entrepreneurs to successfully acquire agricultural land, transport, cultivate, process, and sell to wholesale, retail, and value-added producers, this conversation about the potential of growing a new Hawai'i industry is nothing but a pipedream and Hawai'i will continue to be an economic slave to tourism and military spending.

It is time for the islands to return to their agrarian roots. But this time in a more equitable and democratic manner. As stated in the bill, other states have already successfully legalized and their marijuana industries are years ahead of Hawai'i. Please ensure to take the proper precautions to protect local efforts to collectivize and organically grow a locally-owned and operated Hawai'i-based industry, lest we all succumb to foreign and Mainland corporations buying up Hawai'i Ag lands, monopolizing all corporate positions, and subjecting local residents to minimum wage labor.

As a descendant of plantation immigrants, and as an advocate of Hawaiian economic sustainability and self-sufficiency (food, water, energy), I strongly believe that cannabis (marijuana and hemp) will have the ability to usher in the next economic dynasty in Hawai'i. Sugar is dead, and the State of Hawai'i has taken zero action (outside of enabling GMO corporations) to facilitate a new agricultural industry to fill the massive cultural and economic void left by the plantation industry.

Lastly, I urge you to also include language that will legally create a judiciary process to expunge Hawai'i residents who have been convicted on any non-violent, non-negligent, marijuana related crimes in the past. These people are not, and were not criminals. They were simply healers, patients, and entrepreneurs ahead of their time; victims of an antiquated and bias political dogma that contributed to the overpopulation of our jails and prisons, and a financial burden on our society and our tax-based judiciary system. Mahalo.

Mālama Pono,

Alex Wong, County of Kaua'i Civil Servant

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:41:50 AM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Keamoai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joni Keamoai, I am a native hawaiian who was born and raised in Hawai'i. I support the legalization of Marijuana/Cannabis. It surprises me that Hawai'i is NOT a legalized state, especially with the recent medical benefits of Marijuana. To me, It is herbal medication and it makes people feel good and helps to ease pain and inflammation. My 7yr old nephew recently was diagnosed with Lymphoma stage 2 and my brother aquired CBD oil to help ease his pain after chemotherapy. Happy to report that currently he is in remission and cancer free! It needs to be legalized so the stigma of it being bad can be removed and there doesnt need to be anymore hiding.

Mahalo Nui

From: [Glen P. Young](mailto:Glen.P.Young)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 686
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:57:04 AM



From: Jack Schweigert [mailto:jackschweigert@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:48 AM
To: Sen. Karl Rhoads <SenRhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Glenn Wakai <senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 686

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads (Chair) & Senator Glenn Wakai (Co-chair),

I speak in favor of Senate Bill 686 legalizing cannabis. To me it is a beginning step by the Legislature to take affirmative steps to implement one's right of privacy under Article I § 6, Hawaii Constitution, i.e.,

The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest. The legislature shall take affirmative steps to implement this right (1978).

Around this time there were cannabis cases like State v. Kantner, 53 Haw. 327 (1972) where (if the dissent and concurring opinions were examined) the Supreme Court "decision" was that cannabis was protected from government intervention. As noted by Delegate DiBianco by this time two Circuit Court Judges already had ruled that smoking or possessing cannabis in your own **home** is a protected act and cannot be made illegal. Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii of 1978, Book 2 at 643.

During the Constitutional Convention in 1978, Delegate Helene H. Hale when introducing Article I § 6 (Right of Privacy) appeared before the Committee of the Whole and explained the reason she put in a right of privacy was that it was almost the exact wording of the Alaska Constitution which was interpreted by the Alaska Supreme Court to rule that a person has the right to smoke marijuana in his own **home**. Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii of

1978, Book 2 at 640-642.

There is a presumption in law that when a state borrows a constitutional provision from another state it takes with it the interpretation placed upon that provision by the highest court in that state. Based on the testimony of Delegate Hale before the Committee of the Whole, cannabis in the home was to be constitutionally protected activity. It is time for the Legislature to now pass SB686.

If you have any questions you are welcome to call me at my office phone at 533-7491.

Aloha,
Jack Schweigert

The Law Office of Jack Schweigert
550 Halekauwila Street, Room 309
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: (808) 533-7491
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LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:32:12 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danny Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair of the Judicial Committee:

I oppose SB 686 which will legalize recreational use of marijuana.

Research shows that marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to far worse substance abuse and drug addictions.

Please pay attention to the increase in drug addiction, crime, and homelessness that has impacted the society of the states that have already legalized recreational marijuana.

If you are looking to some how to increase tax revenue by legalizing this drug--you are not considering the third and fourth order adverse affects--it will cost the State and people of Hawaii far more than what you think you will gain in taxes.

Please do not allow this proposed bill out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Melton Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (retired)

Waipahu, HI 96797

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:46:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A Samuels II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support the legalization of Cannabis Sativa, Indica and Rudulous I feel it would benefit the state in several ways including tax revenue which could help with the maintenance of the state's infrastructure and put more money into the public school system.

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:02:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:17:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Easten Tanimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:37:43 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ending prohibition would reduce the number of marijuana-related arrests, displace the illicit marijuana market, and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for Hawaii.

It's past time adults be allowed to use a substance that is safer than alcohol. With your help, Hawaii can take a more thoughtful approach to marijuana.

Mahalo Nui Loa!

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:43:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
darrin corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The reason I support this hearing is because I have medical problems/disability that marijuana helps. I used to have a medical marijuana card before but because I can't work because of my disability I couldn't grow it on my own. By legalizing marijuana a lot of people that need it for medical purposes will be blessed so that they can get their medication a lot easier or even if they can't go to the store themselves maybe a family member or friend would be able to go and pick it up for them.

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS HEARING

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 4:05:26 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
charles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 4:24:28 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Grinpas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and move this bill forward. It is long overdue and will be a wise economic decision. Thank you for your consideration

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 4:31:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
daniel susott	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

On top of all the other reasons to legalize cannabis, planting it everywhere could help prevent and alleviate global warming! Imagine fields of green helping not only hawaii's Poisoned ag land but also the ozone layer in the atmosphere . Please see and share CANNABIS vs. CLIMATE CHANGE by Paul J. von Hartmann. Plant it everywhere!

Aloha, Daniel Campbell Susott, MD, MPH

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

LATE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, /Vice Chair
NOTICE OF HEARING SB 686 Relating to Marijuana

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol 415 South Beretania St.

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 SB 686

Sincerely,

Fern Mossman

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:48:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please bring Hawai'i into the 21st century- !!!

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:59:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Iannucci	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Cannabis should be legal for reasonable personal use, not just medical use. Legalize now.

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:57:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Pyle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads and the JDC Committee Members

My name is Douglas Pyle and I am testifying as an individual OPPOSED to SB 686. I ask that this bill not be advanced from the committee.

There is no reason to be naive about how legalization without careful regulation will be abused by those whose sole interest is maximizing profit, at the expense of the health and welfare of the public.

This bill lacks any thought or consideration for the ill effects and unintended consequences of legalization, or its impact on those who will be ill-affected by it.

This bill would also undermine our tobacco laws. It is more permissive for marijuana use than current laws restricting tobacco use. In the same locations where smoking is now prohibited, marijuana use would be allowed. Whether at doorways and entrances to buildings where nonsmokers are exposed to second hand marijuana smoke, or at public parks and beaches where tobacco smoking is prohibited, marijuana smoking would be allowed at these locations under this bill, regardless of exposure to others including children, and those whose health could be harmed due to pregnancy, allergies or sensitivities to smoke in general.

The bill prohibits sales to anyone under 18, but there is no restriction in the bill on how marijuana is promoted or advertised. Tobacco advertising is strictly restricted, but no such restrictions exist in this bill for marijuana. Marijuana advertisements that appeal to children can run where tobacco ads cannot. Marijuana ads would be permitted in media viewed by children and using colors, flavors and cartoon ads that are all prohibited for advertising tobacco.

This is a bad bill. This has to be better thought out to prevent the inevitable commercialization and promotion of marijuana. It goes way beyond what I agree should be legal: the truly private possession and use of small amounts in a private home - not in public spaces - of small amounts of marijuana. Decriminalization is the preferred route to permit in-home private use and possession of small amounts by adults.

I am concerned this bill undermines public welfare for the benefit of a new corporate recreational marijuana industry, driven by profit to expand use by more people, that would harm those who do not now use, and could impact those whose health could be harmed by exposure to or by use of this drug, which is a powerful and effective medicine used properly.

Unregulated commercialization and profit-driven promotion of marijuana is not the way to go. Please oppose SB 686. Thank you.

Douglas Pyle, Honolulu

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:33:13 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seraph D'Alerta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha ladies and gentlemen of the committee. My name is Seraph D'Alerta and I am writing in today to voice my support for the primary purpose of SB 686. I am a voter in Maui. I am in support of legal, adult recreational use of marijuana in the state of Hawaii and I think that it is wrong to continue treating marijuana use as a crime in any capacity. While SB 686 has its flaws, namely an excessive and unnecessary licensing structure, I support the principal and spirit of the bill. That said, I would like to mention that I think SB 779 is a better bill that obtains the same goals without the excessive and unnecessary regulation (as well as the expenses and resource appropriation associated with said regulation) found in SB 686. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:03:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Manley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to voice my support for SB686. The time is now to legalize marijuana. Hawaii should join the other forward thinking states and end the costly prohibition of marijuana.

Not only is legalization the right thing morally, it is the smart move financially for the state.

Mahalo,

Chris Manley

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:09:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. L. Souza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:38:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Ernst	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am a long time resident of Wailua Homesteads on Kauai, and I am in support of SB686.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jenny Ernst

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:02:23 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cameron L. Taylor	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha! I have a wife and 3 wonderful children, a 3 time combat war veteran, all with the 25th ID here on Oahu, and I have been a resident since 2003. I sustained multiple injuries, visible and non visible while downrange. Upon my return from my last combat tour I was medically retired due to my injuries sustained from combat. After 4 to 5 years of prescription medication, and not seeing any improvement and getting worse, having to have multiple surgeries, I looked for a holistic way to heal my body. I found a Veteran organization that was dedicated in helping veterans with PTSD and chronic pain. I honor the fact that we went to war to fight for our freedoms, and I support legal adult recreational use of cannabis! It is also very difficult to explain to my children how cannabis (CBD) can be sold in stores yet still be illegal? We have a medical program, so let's stop treating marijuana use as a crime! While SB 686 has its flaws, namely an excessive and unnecessary licensing structure, I support the principal and spirit of the bill. I would like to mention that I think SB 779 is a better bill that obtains the same goals without the excessive and unnecessary regulation (as well as the expenses and resource appropriation associated with said regulation) found SB 686. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:30:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Oppie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:08:41 PM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melvin Akina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 686 in the legalization of marijuana

LATE

Aloha ladies and gentlemen of the committee. I appreciate that you are reading my testimony related to SB 686. My name is Michelle Tippens, I am a 41-year old voter in Mililani. I am mother to 4 adults, a veteran of the US Army, a cannabis patient and the executive director of the Hawaii Veteran's Cannabis Alliance, a 501c19 non-profit veteran's service organization whose goal is to reduce the frequency of veteran and PTSD related suicide. This testimony is in support of the primary purpose of SB 686.

I am in support of legal, adult recreational marijuana use in the state of Hawaii and I think that it is wrong and hypocritical to continue treating marijuana use as a crime in any capacity while taxing citizens for its sale and levying license fees upon patients who find its use therapeutically effective through a medical program. While SB 686 has its flaws, primarily an excessive and unnecessary licensing structure (items I do not support within SB 686 are itemized below), I support the principle and "spirit" of the bill. That said, I would like to mention that SB 779 is a better bill that obtains the same goals without the aforementioned unnecessary regulation. SB 779 achieves this by simply redacting the criminal sanctions related to adult recreational use of marijuana from current HRS instead of creating more legislation, which can be both confusing and contradictive to both the general public and law enforcement.

Mahalo for your time, below are specific edits I would like to endorse related to SB 686. Aloha.

A—Page 8, Lines 4 and 5. This regulation would create a 6 plant allowance for adult propagation of marijuana for private use. The 6 plant limit is arbitrary and inadequate if it is meant to allow recreational users to facilitate their personal use. Plants take months to grow and take skill to cultivate successfully. Such a low plant number is far more likely to waste resources than support recreational use. Additionally, patients and non-patients do not have different capacity to regulate their grow environment, so there is no reason the plant count should be lower than medically authorized numbers. We request the plant limit be increased to match the current plant limits applied in the medical program.

B—Page 8, Line 8. Restricts marijuana grow space to "enclosed and locked" space. This is unnecessary and burdensome, Electricity is tragically expensive in Hawaii and growing marijuana successfully indoors requires 10-12 kwh per day without climate control, which would be necessary in a fully enclosed space. Just electric expense alone would be prohibitive. Not to mention this is unnecessarily restrictive for persons residing outside of urban areas or with large land space. The Hawaiian sun cannot be synthesized in an enclosed space. We request the requirement for growing to be done in an "enclosed and locked" space be stricken.

C—Page 8, Lines 9 & 10. Restriction against sale of immature marijuana plants. The sale of immature marijuana plants is an important part of a functional grow cycle for many people who would like to grow their own cannabis. The sale serves two functions, one is obviously to supply the seller with an income, part of which can be used to supply usable cannabis. The other purpose may elude some, that is to reduce the burden of the grower to only flowering plants. Most growers cannot afford to maintain 2 grow spaces (one for vegetative, one for flower), nor do many people in Hawaii have the space to maintain 2 grow areas. By allowing some to specialize in the vegetative portion of the grow process, the burden on the individual growers is reduced substantially and growing one's own private marijuana becomes possible. We ask that the restriction against the sale of marijuana plants be stricken.

*D—Page 9, Lines 11-16. Refers to licensing for retail marijuana stores. This is unnecessary. Marijuana can be sold at regular stores that choose to carry it in their inventory. The store can get a supplemental license, similar to the license needed to vend cigarettes or alcohol, items which also have an age restriction associated with their sale. What lines 11-16 introduce is unnecessary and wastes resources that frankly the state doesn't have. We request this be removed from the legislation.

*E—Page 10, Lines 3-8. Refers to a marijuana cultivation facility license. The state of Hawaii already has a process in place for the development of agricultural industries, which has quality assurance measures in place, a dealer licensing process already established and policies set to combat and enforce against agricultural theft. These channels would be more appropriate for "cultivation centers" and would not require the creation of new policies or hiring additional staff. We request the references to "marijuana cultivation facility license" be removed from SB 686.

*F—Page 10, Lines 18-21 and Page 11, Lines 1 & 2. Again, licensure is burdensome and unnecessary.

*G—Page 11, Lines 5-9. Again, licensure is burdensome and unnecessary.

*Items D through G all refer to licenses for varied roles within a legal sales chain for marijuana production and sale to recreational consumers. Layers of licensure and regulation will cripple the market before it has even established itself and is both confusing and costly to consumers and law enforcement. Starting any successful agricultural business in Hawaii is expensive, layers of licensing only increase this expense; this becomes prohibitive to local businesses and leaves the market to be run solely by "big business", which the people of Hawaii specifically do not want. Simply put, layers of licensing equal a "pay to play" type system which is not inclusive, nor does it encourage the participation of local agribusinesses. Both should be goals of any new market created in Hawaii. We request all licensing requirements be removed from SB 686.

H—Page 11, Line 14 through Page 13, Line 18. This section is unnecessary and costly. A wide array of stores are able to vend cigarettes and alcohol, both which are well documented to be far more dangerous than marijuana and both which have age-restricted sales. Marijuana should be eligible for sale in these same stores, subject to the same accessibility standards as tobacco. We request this section be removed.

I—Page 14, Line 5. We request this line be amended to read "restricting the use of marijuana by employees during compensated time." It is unreasonable to allow employers to restrict an employee's recreational marijuana use outside of the workplace/work hours.

J—Page 15, Line 3. We request this be amended to read: "marijuana in or on that property, with the exception of property leased or rented for use as residential domicile, in which case the tenant's right to use, possess and cultivate recreational marijuana shall supersede that of the property owner's right to restrict the same." The deference to a tenant's right to dictate the activities within their own home should not be infringed by this legislation. Without this clarification, this infringement is inevitable.

K—Page 15, Line 7. We request the removal of the words "by the marijuana establishment." The regulation should apply to all establishments and therefore the specification is restrictive to the applicability of the law.

L—Page 15, Lines 19-21. We request an amendment be made to indicate that proceedings begun before the effective date of this law should be immediately discontinued. To continue proceedings after acknowledging the right of adults to engage in personal recreational marijuana use is hypocritical and a continued waste of the state's precious financial and personnel resources.

M—Page 15, Lines 11-18. SB 779 would accomplish the same intended result of this section using a better method, eliminating the crime from our legislation instead of creating more legislation that simply contradicts and confuses. This bill as written creates layers of licensing and regulatory restrictions that expose the public to prosecution for "unintentional" violations, which is against the fundamental declared purpose of the bill.

Mahalo again for your time, I appreciate that you read my suggestions and hope you find them appropriate. Aloha.

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:24:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Yim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure and hope it moves forward.

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:58:43 AM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing to testify in STRONG SUPPORT for SB686 that would legalize adult use cannabis.

Hawai'i should join all the other states on the West Coast and a growing number elsewhere in ending the needless criminalization of cannabis, repairing the damage done by prohibition and bringing in tax revenue into the state coffers.

I ask that you also consider: 1) Thousands of locals have criminal records due to cannabis possession that mark their every application for a loan, job or home. We need to help them expunge their records - that is only fair; 2) Some of the tax revenue should be re-invested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs; 3) Those criminalized by the law we are about to change deserve a fair shot at becoming part of the future cannabis industry. We must not exclude them from participating.

Sincerely,

Kim Coco Iwamoto

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 1:03:47 AM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the Legalization of Recreational Cannabis.

Alaska, California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, and Washington D.C have all lefalized Recreational Cannabis. Heck, even the Entire Country of Canada legalized it this year...

Hawaii was on the frontier of progressive ideals; we were the First Statein the Nation to recognize and legalize the use of Medical Cannabis all the way back in the year 2000!

The Largest Sectors in Hawaii's Economy are Tourism (1st) and Agriculture (3rd). With that knowledge; the Legalization of Cannabis is a No-Brainer!

I wanted to keep this short, and I believe I've made my point.

I'd like to thank the Congress Men and Women of Hawaii's Legislature who introduced this bill.

Many Mahalo's,

-Dylan

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:03:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka) SisterFace	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I, Ordained Minister Hector Hoyos Fully, Loudly Support Marijuana Legalization For State Of Hawaii!

The Possibilities Are Endless, The State & Governor Should Not Waste Time & Lets Work To Get This Done. The Science Does Lie & Is Coming In Almost Weekly Now. We As One Of The Worlds Best & Biggest Tropical Paradises Should Not Fall Behind In Our Mainland Brother & Sister States That Are More Conservative Then We Are That Have Now Already Moved Ahead Of Us. The Ideas Are Endless What The State Really Could Do For Itself & Yes, The People, Everybody Could Benefit & Should, No One Should Be Left Out. I Fully Support & Most My Friends & Flock Do Also, Mahalos!

Minister HRH-SF

808-352-0796

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:46:08 AM
Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edgar Espero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui Chair Rhoads and judiciary committee members, I am submitting testimony today in favor of SB686 for all the reasons the introducers of this bill have chosen to put their names behind said legislation. The benefits to the state in passing SB686 are substantial, not only in tax revenue but in combating the current opioid crisis in Hawaii. A thriving legal cannabis industry would contribute greatly to the state's economy, providing entrepreneurial opportunities to many. Mahalo for your time and efforts.

Edgar Espero

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:07:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Dau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB686. There is no reason to allow another drug, currently illegal, to become legal. We have enough problems in our society with crime, including DWI, that involves drugs and alcohol to allow this bill to pass. Although marijuana is a natural substance, as many illegal drugs stem from natural substance, it doesn't make it right to allow citizens to inject it legally. This bill is not logical or reasonable. The state needs to work with the medial MJ laws before moving to legalized yet another drug in our community

Lisa Dau, RN

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marti Tom	Individual	Oppose	

Comments:

LATE

SB-686

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:56:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Lynn Robinson-Onderko. I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am mother of two and a long time advocate for the legalization of recreational marijuana. I am writing in strong support of this bill. The benefits of legalized marijuana far outweigh the risks. Please do the right thing and vote yes on this measure. Mahalo for your time and consideration.