



To: Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

From: Randy Gonce, Executive Director of the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association

Re: Testimony **In Support** on **House Bill (HB) 1957**

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS DAY
Establishes June 14 of each year as "Medical Cannabis Day".

Dear Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Cannabis Industry Association is the trade association for the state's licensed medical cannabis dispensaries. HICIA **supports** HB1957 which establishes June 14th as Medical Cannabis Day.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Akamai Cannabis Clinic
3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1957
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS DAY

By
Clifton Otto, MD

House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 329 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to offer **STRONG SUPPORT** for this measure.

June 14 is an important day for the State because it represents the first time that a state has authorized the medical use of cannabis via the legislative process.

This is also an important day for our medical cannabis patients because it provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the substantial benefit that our medical cannabis patients are experiencing through the personal supervised medical use of cannabis and provides an opportunity to dispel the stigma and discrimination that have surrounded our Medical Cannabis Program for the past twenty-two years.

Hopefully, having an annual Medical Cannabis Day will also bring us one step closer to the day when our patients will no longer need to violate federal law to engage in the state authorized medical use of cannabis in Hawaii.

Aloha.

HB-1957

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:10:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

From : Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: HB1957, in **SUPPORT** of Medical Cannabis Day

Dear Chair Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice-Chair Adrian K. Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I am Wendy Gibson-Viviani, an RN who has been a resident of Oahu for 29 years. I watched the Hawaii's medical cannabis program develop and have participated in a few legislative task forces and oversight working groups, that gave recommendations to legislators about the medical cannabis registry and dispensary programs. I have been a medical cannabis patient advocate and cannabis nurse educator for nearly eight years.

I support HB1957 because I feel it is important to recognize that Hawaii made history on June 14th, 2000 , as it was the first state to create a medical cannabis program through the legislative process.

I believe that HB1957 and establishing June 14 of each year as "Medical Cannabis Day will help:

- acknowledge the State's authority over the intra-state regulation of cannabis
- honor of the now more than 34,000 patients in our program who are finding relief through the medical use of cannabis
- establish the significance of this day -- as was recognized by proclamation by the mayors of all four counties in 2020 and 2021 and by Governor Ige in 2021

I understand that -- This day is not and shall not be construed as a state holiday.

Please support HB1957. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua