



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2443  
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS**

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID A.TARNAS, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Hearing Date: 01-31-24, 2:00 PM

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Position:** SUPPORT

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) Office of Medical Cannabis Control  
4 and Regulation (OMCCR) supports this measure amending 329-130, HRS, which repeals the  
5 sunset date of the authorization for primary caregivers to cultivate medical cannablis for  
6 qualifying patients. The DOH supports patient access, which includes the ability of medical  
7 cannabis patients and their designated primary caregivers to cultivate cannabis in a lawful, safe,  
8 and patient-focused approach.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2443**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:22:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization              | Testifier Position | Testify   |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| TY Cheng     | Aloha Green Holdings Inc. | Support            | In Person |

Comments:

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair

Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

To: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Representative Kirstin Kahaloha, Vice-Chair

Members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee

Fr: TY Cheng, President of Aloha Green Holdings Inc.

Re: Testimony **In SUPPORT** of **House Bill (HB) 2443**

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Aloha Green Apothecary is a state-licensed medical cannabis dispensary licensee operating on Oahu. Aloha Green **SUPPORTS** as this bill may affect the medical cannabis dispensary program by increasing patient access and lower the costs of cannabis medicine. We support home growing and the personal cultivation of cannabis medicine with proper rules and oversight.

Dispensary prices have fallen 50% over the past 3 years. Aloha Green Apothecary offers a \$129 ounce of dried cannabis flower and \$20 cannabis oil cartridges every day at all four of its retail dispensary locations. These prices are equal to or less than illicit market prices on Oahu.

Despite the lowered cost, there is still a need for patients to grow medicine which suits their specific needs. We support reasonable rules to allow for personal and cooperative cannabis cultivation. The Department of Health has been unable to regulate the proliferation of large scale

commercial grows utilizing caregiver and 329 card stacking exemptions. The Department must address these issues by enacting reasonable cooperative cultivation rules and closing loopholes used by the illicit market. It is unreasonable for a collective or cooperative to grow at a larger scale than state-licensed cultivators unless they are held to the same permitting, lab-testing standards and rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am available for any questions.

Aloha,

TY Cheng

**HB-2443**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:48:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2024 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Casey Rothstein     | Green Aloha Ltd     | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Green Aloha is in Support of HB2443

**HB-2443**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:37:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2024 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kerestin Walker     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 2443, which seeks to repeal the sunset date of the authorization for primary caregivers to cultivate medical cannabis for qualifying patients and clarifies the conditions under which primary caregivers may continue this vital service.

House Bill 2443 is a crucial piece of legislation that addresses the ongoing need for safe and reliable access to medical cannabis for qualifying patients in our state. By repealing the sunset date of the authorization for primary caregivers to cultivate medical cannabis, this bill ensures continuity of care for patients who rely on medical cannabis for their health and well-being.

Furthermore, House Bill 2443 provides much-needed clarity and guidance regarding the cultivation of medical cannabis by primary caregivers. By establishing specific restrictions and regulations, this bill ensures that cultivation activities are conducted in a responsible and compliant manner, prioritizing patient safety and public health.

Passing House Bill 2443 is essential for upholding the principles of compassionate care and ensuring that patients have access to the medicine they need to manage their medical conditions effectively. By removing unnecessary barriers and providing clear guidelines for primary caregivers, this bill supports the continued growth and success of Hawaii's medical cannabis program.

I urge you to support House Bill 2443 and to advocate for its swift passage through the legislative process. By doing so, we can ensure that patients have access to the medical cannabis they need, while also promoting responsible cultivation practices and upholding the integrity of our state's medical cannabis program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to serving the needs of patients in our community.

Sincerely,

Kerestin Walker



**HB-2443**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:23:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2024 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>             | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strong support, this measure allows us to continue to offer cannabis solutions for medical purposes.