

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1217 HD2  
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS**

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: Wednesday 3-22-23

Room Number: 225

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates and supports this  
3 measure amending section 329-41, HRS, various sections of part IX, chapter 329, HRS, and  
4 section 329D-2, HRS, which strengthens the integrity of the medical cannabis law and provides  
5 clear parameters regarding the medical use of cannabis for qualifying patients, primary  
6 caregivers, qualifying out-of-state patients, or caregivers of qualifying out-of-state patients.

7 The department appreciates the HD2 amendment to section 4, which exempts from the limitation  
8 against more than five qualifying patients using any location to cultivate cannabis those  
9 qualifying patients who obtain a written exemption from DOH. The department acknowledges  
10 that there may be extraordinary circumstances when allowing more than five patients to use a  
11 cultivation location would be beneficial and reasonable.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

13 **Offered Amendments:** The DOH supports caregivers' being able to grow for their patients and  
14 offers an amendment to **§329-130 Authorized sources of medical cannabis.** (a) After  
15 December 31, 2024, a qualifying patient shall obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis  
16 products only:

1 (1) From a dispensary licensed pursuant to chapter 329D; provided that the cannabis shall be  
2 purchased and paid for at the time of purchase; or

3 (2) By cultivating cannabis in an amount that does not exceed an adequate supply for the  
4 qualifying patient, pursuant to section 329-122; provided that each location used  
5 to cultivate cannabis shall be used by no more than five qualifying patients.

6 After December 31, 2024, ~~[no]~~ only a qualifying patient or their designated primary caregiver  
7 shall be authorized to cultivate cannabis ~~[for any qualifying patient.]~~

8 ~~[(b) This section shall not apply to:]~~

9 ~~[(1) A qualifying patient who is a minor or an adult lacking legal capacity and the primary  
10 caregiver is the parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a qualifying  
11 patient described in this paragraph; or]~~

12 ~~[(2) A qualifying patient on any island on which there is no medical cannabis dispensary  
13 licensed pursuant to chapter 329D.]~~

14 ~~[(e)]~~ (b) A qualifying out-of-state patient and a caregiver of a qualifying out-of-state patient  
15 shall be authorized to obtain cannabis for medical use only from retail dispensing locations of  
16 dispensaries licensed pursuant to chapter 329D.

17 The DOH also supports patients and their designated primary caregiver's ability to produce  
18 cannabis products for themselves or their qualifying patient's personal use and provides the  
19 following amendments to page 12, lines 15-17, "no person shall produce, manufacture or  
20 dispense cannabis or manufactured cannabis products without a dispensary license unless  
21 authorized pursuant to chapter 329, part IX, Hawaii Revised Statutes."





**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 21, 2023

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura  
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 1217, H.D. 2 – Relating to Medical Cannabis**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 1:01 p.m.**  
**Conference Room: 225**

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Dear San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Cure Oahu in **support** of H.B. 1217, H.D. 2. Cure Oahu is a vertically integrated licensed dispensary that has been operating in the State of Hawaii since 2018, with two retail locations in the Kapahulu and Kapolei areas.

H.B. 1217, H.D. 2 Relating to Medical Cannabis amends various statutory provisions for the purpose of strengthening the integrity of medical cannabis law. Currently, medical cannabis dispensaries are regulated under HRS Chapter 329D and the individual medical use of medical cannabis is regulated under HRS Chapter 329. By definition, any activity that falls outside of these regulations is not regulated cannabis.

We believe clarity as to what is permitted by law is fundamental to any legal, regulated system. It is important for the agencies that regulate cannabis to have the tools they need to perform compliance and oversight responsibilities as necessary to ensure compliance with the law. It is equally important for dispensaries and medical cannabis patients to have clarity about the existing regulations. There is currently some confusion in the marketplace and community of medical cannabis patients as to what is permissible under the law, and something must be done to clarify the intent of both Chapter 329 and Chapter 329D. We believe this measure will help both dispensaries and medical cannabis patients interpret and comply with the letter and spirit of the law on equal footing. It will also help the regulatory agencies educate the community regarding current permissible uses of cannabis.

We respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure to allow for discussions to continue on these issues. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:43:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Chung	Testifying for Pono Life Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of PONO LIFE MAUI, one of eight medical cannabis dispensaries licensed by the Department of Health to provide safe, legal access to medical cannabis for Hawai‘i-registered patients, we testify in SUPPORT of HB1217.

State-legal medical cannabis, and the future of legal cannabis, currently rely on state law as its bedrock with federal policy guidance. As a new industry evolves, state, federal, and international standards align, similar to food, drugs, telecommunications, and automobiles. Success with establishing legal medical cannabis would provide significant economic and social benefits.

Strengthening the medical cannabis law is safe and adds value. Discarding the integrity of the medical cannabis law adds more risk, and cost, and destructs economic and social benefits.

We believe this measure will help both dispensaries and medical cannabis patients interpret and comply with the letter and spirit of the law on equal footing. It will also help the regulatory agencies educate the community regarding current permissible uses of cannabis.

Please note that despite more medical cannabis dispensaries, and expanded product selection including edibles, registered patients are declining; less than half of registered patients utilize a dispensary each month.

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair



Jason Hanley, Owner of Care Waialua  
Oppose HB1217 HD2

Care Waialua is a medical cannabis farm, established in 2015, to allow 329 card medical card patients of Hawaii a place to grow their medical cannabis. Care Waialua has been around before the establishment of the dispensary system and sets up a space where 329 card holders can educate themselves through the many uses of cannabis medicine and the different ways to use the plant for its medicinal values.

Care Waialua has grown large because 329 card holders don't have the resources to grow their own medicine at home. Lack of growing space, knowledge of growing, and safety from theft are the major concerns. Care Waialua address these problems by providing a 2-acre secure site, free from theft, and resources such as greenhouses, soil, nutrients, education, etc.

Another large reason Care Waialua has become so popular is over 70% of 329 card holders do not use the dispensaries because cannot afford the dispensary prices or do not like the indoor flower they grow. Most patients prefer sun grown cannabis.

### **We strongly oppose with H.B. No. 1217, H.D. 1**

**(2)** Restricting the number of qualifying patients who may use the same grow site to cultivate cannabis to five individuals;

Limiting 5 cards to a site will leave many medical patients without medicine. According to DOH records there are approximately over 3000 patients alone using caregiver sites with more than 5 cards on each site. Our site alone has 1000 patients, and that data should be compelling enough to show the legislature that caregiver farms are being utilized. Care Waialua, with an extensive patient membership has never been reported to the DOH for any misdoings or diverting product to the unregulated market.

**We strongly oppose with H.B. No. 1217, H.D. 1**

**(4)** To refuse any lawful entry into any premises for any inspection authorized by this chapter.

Currently the DOH has no standard operating procedure on how to conduct a compliance check, also known as a “plant count”. The current law states that no state entity shall enter private property without a search warrant and probable cause to conduct a search. In the past five years DOH and Public Safety have conducted unprofessional compliance checks with a show of force by Public Safety walking on property with guns and operating with a green harvest demeanor. Many patients are willing to allow DOH on their property voluntarily, but Department of Safety should be removed from the Medical Program compliance checks. I am available for further discussion on this topic. It is a safety issue.

HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

I oppose HB1217

Care Waialua is a patient-based cultivation site that allows me a place to grow and manufacture my own products. If you limit this farm to twenty cards, there will be over a 1,000 people that will have to leave the farm and lose a valuable community resource.

The DOH has proven it is not up for the task of working outside of the dispensary program by allowing the Dept of Narcotics to conduct compliance checks, instilling fear in all medical patients. This bill would allow them the ability to decide who gets exemptions and how large a farm can be?

If the state would like to move forward on better patient-based cultivation site regulations, then they should build a proper licensing model that is built through data and not false rumors that patient-based cultivation sites are operating outside of the law. Legislators, please help us move forward by looking at the existing Maine medical framework.


Lastly, please do not exclusively listen to dispensary interests. They continue to alarm legislation, falsely, insinuating that patient-based cultivation sites are places of diversion and unsafe medicine. They are not. They are a place of healing and safety.

Dispensaries and patient-based cultivation sites can operate together and benefit the community, but the state must bring in science to allow a healthy cannabis system in Hawaii. The current system has only forced those who cannot afford the dispensary, or do not have a patient-based cultivation site to grow, into the already large black market. This can be fixed.

Name. Eric Venancio

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Name. LORRAINE MARTINEZ

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Name. Robert Pinos

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Name. Autumn Wiley

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Name. Awaieaie 65

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Name. Peter Ulu-Fano

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Name. Montrice Canada

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Name. Steph Delore

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HB1217 HHI

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Name. CURTIS CAMACHO

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Name. PATRICIA MILLS

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Name. Victoria Kreiselmeyer

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Name

Jessica Bisson

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Name. Kelly Pinzak & Chong

Phone Number 349.3644

Email mskellypc@gmail

 HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

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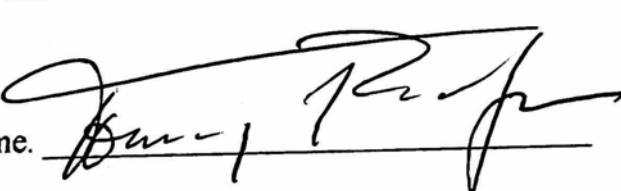
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Name.  Tommy RUELAS

Phone Number 808. 594. 9144

Email tommyRUELAS8@GMAIL.COM

SB HB1217 HD1  
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Name. Nicole Cerna

Phone Number 808-725-4396

Email nicolefcerma@gmail.com

 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Laura Purdy

Phone Number 808-375-6671

Email LPURDY75@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. PATAUCK NORTON

Phone Number 808-561-3131

Email nortontech@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Katrina Spain

Phone Number 336-554-2401

Email Spain.Katrina@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name Leandro Estrada

Phone Number 352 8096

Email strandnr@yahoo.com





HB1217 HDI

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Name. MICHAEL MARTINEZ

Phone Number (310) 422-1398

Email Michael Martinez

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Name. Tina L Brooks

Phone Number 808-462-7185

Email b-gentleman39@yahoo.com

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Phone Number 808-464-7099

Email Marymed1962@gmail.com

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Name. Michael McEwan

Phone Number 808. 376-5619

Email M1McEwan@yahoo.com



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Name. Jessica Hakel

Phone Number 757-512-4753

Email Hakel.Jessica12@gmail.com

**HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Nicholas Manges

Phone Number 808 369-6137

Email nickmanges@ydt200.com

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Name. Shadelle K Jones

Phone Number 808 277 5552

Email msdellywones808@yahoo.com

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Name. Celia Ormsby

Phone Number 808 304 2225

Email Ormsby.Celia@gmail



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Phone Number (850) 699-0048

Email wavesunshine1@yahoo.com

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Phone Number 808 861 2435

Email ryankimura808@gmail.com

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Name. Asam S. Casper

Phone Number 808-927-2421

Email ifcanhandyman@gmail.com

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Name. Destiny Rubearo

Phone Number (808) 492-4833

Email destinyrubearo@gmail.com

 HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

I oppose HB1217

Care Waialua is a patient-based cultivation site that allows me a place to grow and manufacture my own products. If you limit this farm to twenty cards, there will be over a 1,000 people that will have to leave the farm and lose a valuable community resource.

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Name. Lacy Dudoit

Phone Number 908 779 8640

Email Lacy dew@gmail.com

 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Jessica Windham

Phone Number 702 340 0269

Email Jessielynn0419@gmail

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Loren Capps

Phone Number 808-896-1143

Email lunalux82@gmail.com

 **HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Jeremy Norton

Phone Number 808 330 8459

Email MOTOELLO76@gmail.com



 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Tiffany Norton

Phone Number (808) 375 6917

Email tiffantiff@hotmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. DAVE PRIMICIAS

Phone Number 408.518.0950

Email davepaxb@yahoo.com

HB1217 HDI

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Name. Stephanie Phan

Phone Number (408) 459-9678

Email stephanphan@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1  
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Name. JEREMY VORTON

Phone Number 808 330 8459

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Faith Underwood

Phone Number 443-935-1223

Email faithunderwood@gmail.com

HB1217HD1

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Name. Salina Santiago

Phone Number 808 940-0205

Email MZsalina96712@icloud.com

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Name. Andrey Nahopi - Kaauwai

Phone Number (559) 477-7643

Email andrey.nahopi@gmail.com

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Name. Christopher Kaauwai

Phone Number 808-213-4273

Email ChrisKaauwai@gmail.com



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Name. REBECCA CRAIG PODY

Phone Number 405-415-5264

Email R.NICOLE.CRAIG@GMAIL.COM



HB1217 HD1

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Name. Donald Thayer

Phone Number 808 497-4064

Email willthayer808@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Andrea Reed

Phone Number 757-999-9761

Email draya229@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Narren Guabdarans

Phone Number ~~408~~ 400-0651

Email menehune1@gmail.com

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Name. Dolores MARTINEZ

Phone Number 808-282-8155

Email DODE4NOW@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Stacey McMillan

Phone Number 808. 462. 3537

Email shadiyyah3437@gmail.com

 SB962 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Dispensaries and patient-based cultivation sites can operate together and benefit the community, but the state must bring in science to allow a healthy cannabis system in Hawaii. The current system has only forced those who cannot afford the dispensary, or do not have a patient-based cultivation site to grow, into the already large black market. This can be fixed.

Name. William Stamp

Phone Number 808 234 8494

Email Wstamp10@gmail.com

 SB962 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

I oppose SB962

Care Waialua is a patient-based cultivation site that allows me a place to grow and manufacture my own products. If you limit this farm to twenty cards, there will be over a 1,000 people that will have to leave the farm and lose a valuable community resource.

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Name.

Carla Lapinad.

Phone Number

(808) 457-5208

Email

Sumhunny5@icloud.com



SB962 SD1 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Name. Carli Lapinad

Phone Number (808) 368-1322

Email Carli.rlapinad@gmail.com

SB962 SD1 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Name. Rachel O'Hara

Phone Number 404 798-4664

Email rcohara@gmail.com

SB962 SDI HDI  
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
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Name. Tony Montoya

Phone Number 808 222 9312

Email TJ\_Montoya1@yahoo.com

**SB962 SD1 HD1**

**RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
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Name. Tauane Kaluana vabani Shimabukuro

Phone Number (808) 724 8867

Email Tauane.kv@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

I oppose HB1217

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Name. Jessica Kitaura

Phone Number 808-258-6764

Email JessicaKitaura@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
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Name. Victoria Laupepe

Phone Number 408-821-1197

Email leaupepe@outlook.com

**HB1217 HD1**

**RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

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Name. Bruce Leaper

Phone Number 408623-1370

Email bruceleaper@gmail.com



HB1217 HDI

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Name. Walfredo Silveira Junior

Phone Number 808 308-4152

Email WJR TURISMO@gmail.com



 HB1217 HD1

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Name. JOETTE SANDOVAL

Phone Number 453-0289

Email joettesandovay@gmail.com

 HB1217 HD1

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Name. ANDREW ASINO

Phone Number 808-313-9185

Email drewpasino@gmail.com



SB962 SD1 HD1

**RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

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Name. Liza Stamp

Phone Number 808 234 8337

Email laluvsw@gmail.com

 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Dakotah Courtney

Phone Number 808-348-5223

Email DCourtah0317@gmail.com

HB1217 HDI

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Name. Wanda DABBS

Phone Number 808-215-5211

Email wdabbs53@gmail.com



HB1217 HD1

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Name. Ryan Miller

Phone Number 732-939-2480

Email Ryan Miller 732 @ icloud.com

HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Name. KEITH FLETCHER

Phone Number 347 687 2351

Email KFLETCHER23@gmail.com



HB121711D1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
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Name. John Salanoa

Phone Number 808-927-9094

Email john.salanoa@yahoo.com





**HB1217 HD1**

**RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

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**I oppose HB1217**

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Name. Cathleen Crew

Phone Number 808-216-3855

Email emiko96786@gmail.com

 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Matthew Sylvain

Phone Number 808 475 9811

Email Sylvainmatt@ gmail.com.

**HB1217 HDI**

**RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
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Name. Stelton Midwell

Phone Number 808 726 3688

Email thatstateshop@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Name: Arnold Palafan

Phone Number 808 351-8290

Email deedeepalafan@gmail.com

**HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Tyronne D. Dignan

Phone Number 808 382-5752

Email Tyronne.Dignan@YAHOO.COM

 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Tiani Mangca

Phone Number 808-392-0802

Email 808tia@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. ANGELA JACKSON

Phone Number 808 853 9466

Email angeljacks@gmail.com



 HB1217 HD1

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Name. Christian Soto

Phone Number <sup>808</sup> 520 869 9163

Email Pennuel71@gmail.com



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Name. Sean Quiley

Phone Number 808 2865925

Email SeanMQB@gmail.com

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Name Kapela Cabral

Phone Number (808) 384-1822

Email Kapelacabral@gmail.com

**HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Bronson Calles

Phone Number 808-286-7284

Email 

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Name. NOEL AIPA

Phone Number 808 476 5189

Email NOELIE.AIPA@GMAIL.COM

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Name. Kateoaloha Kalani K. Cabral

Phone Number 808-954-1536

Email kateoaloha69@gmail.com

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Phone Number 808 429 9029

Email mhtaveala@gmail.com

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Name. Jalen Griffin

Phone Number 910 441 1894

Email Jalen.Griffin66@yahoo.com





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Name. Lizmaris Rivera Collazo

Phone Number 787-307-3027

Email collazo.li@gmail.com

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Name. FRANK TRAMONTANO

Phone Number 808-226-4755

Email oBoytrane@gmail.com

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Name. Collin Muta

Phone Number 808-387-5581

Email cmuta@gmail.com

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Name. Edna Beza Cay

Phone Number 787 240-0193

Email edna.l.beza@gmail.com

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Name Jessica Willis

Phone Number 808-924-4444

Email averigena@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

I oppose HB1217

Care Waialua is a patient-based cultivation site that allows me a place to grow and manufacture my own products. If you limit this farm to twenty cards, there will be over a 1,000 people that will have to leave the farm and lose a valuable community resource.

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Name. Shari Seibel

Phone Number 509-361-4774

Email sharisiebel@gmail.com

 HB1217 HDI

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

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Name. CARLY NAGANUMA

Phone Number 808-225-7928

Email CARLYNAGANUMA@GMAIL.COM



HB1217 HDI  
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Name. Danielle Hilbmann

Phone Number 610-812-6561

Email daniellechilb1@gmail.com



**HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Justin A. Tabios

Phone Number 808-364 6511

Email justintabios@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Dawn Isaacks

Phone Number 510 586 2906

Email dawnaeisacks@yahoo.com

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Name: Shanelle Hernandez

Phone Number: (808) 807-9024

Email: S.hernando90@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Camani Gunt hose

Phone Number 808-462-3698

Email CamaniG422@gmail.com

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Name. Bucknell, Chris

Phone Number 310-428-2260

Email chris.bucknell@me.com

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Name.

Virgil A. Shiner

Phone Number

808 745-4577

Email

VirgilShiner@yqhee.com

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Name. TERRY LEE DANIEL JR

Phone Number 708-224-6885

Email terryreedaniel@gmail.com



**HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Liza Stamp

Phone Number 808 234 8337

Email lcluvsws@gmail.com



**HB1217 HD1**

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Name. Carli Lapinad

Phone Number (808) 368-1322

Email carli.rlapinad@gmail.com

HB1217 HD1

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Name. Tauane Kaluana Vairani Shimabukuro

Phone Number (808) 724-8867

Email Tauane.kv@gmail.com

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Name. Tony Montoya

Phone Number 908 222 9312

Email TJ -Montoya1@yahoo.com

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Name. Carla Lapinael

Phone Number (808) 457-5308

Email sumhunny5@icloud.com

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Name. Rachel Okona

Phone Number 408-798-4604

Email Rokona@gmail.com



**SB962 SD1 HD1**

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Name. Jessica Kitaura

Phone Number 808-258-6764

Email JessicaKitaura@gmail.com

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Name. Victoria Laupepe

Phone Number 408-821-1197

Email laupepe@outlook.com

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Dispensaries and patient-based cultivation sites can operate together and benefit the community, but the state must bring in science to allow a healthy cannabis system in Hawaii. The current system has only forced those who cannot afford the dispensary, or do not have a patient-based cultivation site to grow, into the already large black market. This can be fixed.

Name. Bruce W. Cannon

Phone Number 408 623-1390

Email Bruce.W.Cannon@gmail.com



HB1217 HD1

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

- Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, possession, distribution, handling, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by specific persons or entities.
- Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to twenty, unless an exemption is obtained from DOH.

I oppose HB1217

Care Waialua is a patient-based cultivation site that allows me a place to grow and manufacture my own products. If you limit this farm to twenty cards, there will be over a 1,000 people that will have to leave the farm and lose a valuable community resource.

The DOH has proven it is not up for the task of working outside of the dispensary program by allowing the Dept of Narcotics to conduct compliance checks, instilling fear in all medical patients. This bill would allow them the ability to decide who gets exemptions and how large a farm can be?

If the state would like to move forward on better patient-based cultivation site regulations, then they should build a proper licensing model that is built through data and not false rumors that patient-based cultivation sites are operating outside of the law. Legislators, please help us move forward by looking at the existing Maine medical framework.

Lastly, please do not exclusively listen to dispensary interests. They continue to alarm legislation, falsely, insinuating that patient-based cultivation sites are places of diversion and unsafe medicine. They are not. They are a place of healing and safety.

Dispensaries and patient-based cultivation sites can operate together and benefit the community, but the state must bring in science to allow a healthy cannabis system in Hawaii. The current system has only forced those who cannot afford the dispensary, or do not have a patient-based cultivation site to grow, into the already large black market. This can be fixed.

Name. William Stamp

Phone Number 808-234-8494

Email Wstamp@gnail.com

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 12:39:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pat Fondren	Testifying for FireFarmsMaui	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern .

I strongly oppose bill HB 1217 .This bill directly impacts small communities on maui that rely on collective farms to help them with serious medical issues. These people cannot afford to by from dispensaries let alone travel the distance to go to them . It put these people that already struggle to keep food on the table no access to medicine .

how can the stste law makers agree to this when they know Hawaii is one of the most expensive places to live and affordable housing is almost impossible to find !

This bill is trying to keep our most poor people hear even worse off than now .

it seems to only cater to the wealthy people in Hawaii .

This bill HB1217 is wrong to criminalize a huge portion of people in the medical system .

How will the state pay for this type of enforcement?

through tax payer money , which should be used for social services.

The push from private companies like the dispensary's to move these types of bills should be illegal. What they are doing is not Pono for medical patients of Hawaii

please vote NO on HB 1217

mahalo

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:33:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Wong	Testifying for Kauai Farm Planning	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,**

**No law should limit how much food and medicine you can legally grow for your own community.**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:**

**RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1217 and HD1/HD2**

**1. What is the legal reason and justification for limiting registered medical cannabis grow sites to only five (5) qualifying patients? Access to a secure, discreet, privately owned property on an island is very difficult, especially in dense urban development areas such as nearly all of Oahu and all the residential zoned areas on Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii. This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.**

**If agriculture zoned land is available to provide the space, infrastructure, privacy, remoteness, and cooperative community-based cultivation and shared responsibility of medical self-determination, why would the State of Hawaii make it illegal for more than five (5) qualifying patients from growing, propagating, and flowing their medical plants together? Many hands make light work, and division of labor is a fundamental economic principle of efficiency and minimizing labor costs. Costs that are important to consider when access to affordable medical cannabis in Hawaii is an ethical concern with regards to the not so affordable alternatives (i.e. dispensaries).**

**Intentional disregard of financial and social equity is the essential problem here. The right for a community to grow its own medicine shall not be infringed upon. Under HRS-329, each qualified medical patient has the right to cultivate, or have a caregiver cultivate, 10 plants registered to their 329 card. It does not matter if those plants are grown alone in the backyard, or grown next to 2,000 other plants (in other words, 200 other medical patients).**

**10 plants per patient equals 10 plants per patient. Keep in mind, not all cannabis plants counted will be in the flowering phase. Many of the counted plants will be in other various phases of the growth cycle (cutting, seedling, and vegetative state).**

**2. Who exactly do the authors of this bill suspect will be growing “medical cannabis” besides “qualifying patients, qualifying out-of-state patients, their authorized primary caregivers, or medical cannabis dispensaries”? Clearly the authors of this bill are attempting to prevent certain individuals from cultivating medical cannabis. Who is it? This is not a rhetorical question.**

**3. Who exactly is going to enforce the “misapplication of the medical cannabis” in question?**

**The Department of Health? The Police? Who is going to fund this extra work to be required from either the Department of Health and/or local law enforcement to “conduct onsite inspections to verify a person’s compliance”? Hawaii’s tax paying residents? The dispensaries? The 329 medical patients themselves? This is not a rhetorical question.**

**The DOH should provide a clear pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the inspections should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.**

**4. And who exactly is going to be the authority on executing “searches and seizures”? Who will hold the individuals executing searches and seizures accountable throughout this process? The Department of Health? The Police? Who is going to fund this extra work to be required from the Department of Health and/or local law enforcement? Hawaii’s tax paying residents? The dispensaries? The 329 medical patients themselves? This is not a rhetorical question.**

**5. “No person shall mischaracterize or disguise transactions arising out of the production, manufacture, sale, or distribution of cannabis intended for medical use as another type of compensation or expense.” Medical cannabis cultivation (indoor and outdoor) in Hawaii is farming. It requires physical labor, the ability to lift over 50 lbs, stand and sit for long periods of time, and the physical and mental capacity to regularly and consistently keep living plants alive. The expectation that the Department of Health expects medical patients with chronic or terminal illness, or debilitating conditions to successfully cultivate and process their own medicine over the span of 6 to 9 months is both ridiculous and callous. The expectation that these medical patients can afford to just go to the dispensary and pay \$400 to \$500 per ounce of flower is equally ridiculous and callous. Please consider creating a bill to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/2024. The prohibition on medical caregivers and growers in Hawaii needs to be stopped, and caregivers should be allowed to continue in perpetuity.**

**Medical cannabis cultivation, like all agriculture in Hawaii, has a high cost upfront and a very slow ROI (Return On Investment). Expenses include but are not limited to: the lease agreement for land and space to register the controlled grow site, electricity, water, infrastructure such as irrigation, greenhouse or tent canopy, soil, compost, fertilizer, pots/grow bags, raised beds, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), seeds, clones, time, and gas/transportation. To expect a caregiver to continuously do all of the work AND pay for the entire cost of all these inputs, and then turn around and give the final product to the patient for FREE is absurd. Especially while the dispensaries are charging \$400 to \$500 per ounce of flower. This is not equal and fair access to affordable medicine.**

**The State of Hawaii and the Department of Health have no business micromanaging the private arrangements medical patients and caregivers have regarding covering the expenses of their registered grow site and production of their medicine. Unless this committee can provide a valid legal reason for this amendment, we must conclude that the only motive for prohibiting reimbursement or compensation of medical cannabis cultivation outside of the dispensaries is to discourage and dismantle medical caregivers and growers from the 329 law, thereby leaving no other alternative for medical patients, who cannot grow their own medicine, but to buy from the dispensary. This is unethical and an infringement on the right of medical self-determination.**

**6. “No person shall produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis or manufactured cannabis products without a dispensary license.” Does this committee understand that not every patient can or wants to consume medical cannabis via smoking cannabis flower? Historically, cannabis extraction and infusion has been a widespread cultural and medical practice that many people from all around the world have adopted and developed over many generations. Criminalizing medical patients and caregivers for processing, or “manufacturing”, cannabis “products” (i.e. FECO, RSO, concentrates, oils, edibles, topicals, etc.) for their own medical use is an infringement on equal and fair access to cannabis medicine. The fact that this bill only allows licensed dispensaries to SELL manufactured medical cannabis products to MEDICAL PATIENTS is unethical and frankly, very suspicious. Why would the State of Hawaii allow the dispensaries a legal monopoly over “manufactured” cannabis products AND criminalize anyone else producing other forms of cannabis medicine? This is not a rhetorical question.**

**HB1217 is clearly aiming to take away medical patients’ rights to grow and produce medicine at any reasonable capacity. It is a blatant attack on all medical cannabis cultivation and relationships that are outside of the dispensaries. The intention and motivation is obvious, the dispensaries want more customers (i.e. medical patients) and are willing to go as far as to change the law to forcibly push more medical patients into their retail stores.**

**This bill is clearly pushing an agenda for corporate cannabis dispensaries to profit off of more medical patients, and is absolutely forcing more medical patients to buy from the dispensaries by limiting their abilities to cultivate their own plants.**

**HB1217 bill is fundamentally unethical, clearly written with animus towards medical growers and caregivers, and rotten with corporate and political greed at the root. It needs to be killed, NOT amended, KILLED.**

**WHERE IS YOUR ALOHA? Respectfully.**

**DO THE RIGHT THING. Respectfully.**

**Mahalo nui loa,**

**Alex Wong**

**LATE**

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 12:42:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Aipolani	Testifying for HawaiiGrowCannabis LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We believe strongly that this will go against all beliefs of medicinal uses with Cannabis and put on hold valuable research related to patients and caregivers. We believe a fair judgment is necessary to uphold the patient's privacy, caregivers responsibility to care for thousands of patients, and the rights to give cannabis back to the people of Hawaii and not some foreigner trying to make a quick sale . If this law is passed it'll put countless of people homeless and with Hawaii's homeless population increasing rapidly. We can't handle another crisis like that . And worst put medical cannabis into uneducated youth who think cannabis is for just for pleasure . Point is there's a ripple effect that's going to happen and it's not gonna affect the tourism. If anything it'll make it thrive . But ultimately. It will affect our children. The teachings will stop because law says it's a must ? Think about the future for Hawaii and keep cannabis is the RIGHT HANDS of 329 Patients and not some rich guy who has the funds . He will corrupt your kids.

To: House of Representatives

03-20-23

Regarding: HB1217 HD2

Stance: Testimony in opposition

**LATE**

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

We appreciate the House hearing bills on Cannabis. Federal Regulations are starting to soften nationwide and soon we will have open Legalization. Until then, we could use the time to drastically improve our current medical program while also immediately addressing economic disparity, social equity, inclusion, expungement, and planning a pathway for Hawai'i and its people to become more self-sustainable.

For phase 2 of our Medical Program - without taking away or reducing any current caregiver/patient rights:

Increase the represented shareholders in the program development by creating a volunteer diversity intake group that will help to provide structure as the Community gets involved. Parties can volunteer to help the state develop a working model for expansion with no-cost to the state.

Expand the medical program to allowing a minimum of eight to sixteen additional medical dispensaries being minority-owned / native Hawaiian that can have all the same opportunities and privileges of the current licensees to cultivate, manufacture, transport and retail. This will create a pathway to strengthen the local economy while also creating more diverse supply to bring down the medical price and create more access to medical cannabis for medical patients.

This should be the beta test before going into and expanding adult use unprepared and prematurely.

For phase 3 the transition to adult use:

Within 2 years of a medical market being improved it will have data to drive the opening of the free market to coincide with the timing of the Federal Legalization and become more of a state asset as states continue to open.

This will give us the opportunity to work through more of the details and be more considerate with responsible access to cannabis for adults.

Citizens want/deserve the power of choice and freedom to choose with their hard earned dollar, that is the freedom, that is the free market, and that is what we have the right and privilege to do.

Restrictions that will be unconstitutional:



Any bill that restricts, reduces, and or limits the amount of 329 medical cannabis cards registered to a single site to five, creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license.

Current guidelines does not limit the amount of caregivers and cardholder to a property or TMK. Taking away Patient's right to DIY after several years would be fatal to our community. This legislation would create regulations that criminalize local 329 patients that wish to make a batch of brownies with cannabis butter.

Many patients create their own cannabis products for many different reasons including cost, allergies, dietary requirements, and product preferences. Criminalizing patients for consuming their medicine in the ways that best alleviate their ailments is wrong and should not be restricted by legislation. This part of the bill should be taken out completely.

Forward Path:

The Department of Health should be a resource that can help keep patients safe, not a hostile agency that will criminalize them. Hawaii and our cannabis patients have been subjected to a brutal war on drugs, including Green Harvest, Operation Wipe Out, job loss, incarceration, subsequent criminal records, and continued stigmatization. This legislation will perpetuate these harmful effects if HB1217 HD2 is passed without consideration.

Ending the war on cannabis is coming and the stigmas are quickly fading away. Forward progression with plant medicine needs to happen.

Ending prohibition should not come at the cost of medical patients' rights and access to medical cannabis. This topic has been heartbreaking to see parties promote expansion without carefully considering those that are currently hurting and feeling the effects of previous years of discrimination.

Greed shows through actions and when we have parties willing to open the conversation and hold space to help each other, that should be utilized rather than avoiding, neglecting, or ignoring the opportunity to work with each other.

Please think more logically and respectfully as we all need to consider the land and the people for which make up who this shall serve. Without the considerations above addressed, we will vote NO.

Welcome to contact us below to help create a brighter future for Cannabis in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Kai Luke, Cannabis Society of Hawai'i  
cannabissocietyofhawaii@gmail.com

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 4:40:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TY Cheng	Testifying for Aloha Green Holdings Inc.	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair HHS

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair, HHS

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

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

**RE: Testimony with COMMENTS of House Bill (HB) 1217 HD2**

**RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.**

*Prohibits the cultivation, production, manufacture, distribution, possession, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by qualifying patients, qualifying out-of-state patients, their authorized primary caregivers, or medical cannabis dispensaries. Restricts the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to five, unless an exemption is obtained by the department of health. Prohibits the receipt of cannabis or cannabis products as compensation for acting as a primary caregiver to a qualifying patient. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)*

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

Aloha Green Apoth believes in the importance of patient access and affordable cannabis medicines and therefore respectfully submits a comment to raise the limit for patients per caregiver location to 50 patients to protect 99% of all existing caregiver grows until the caregiver sunset on December 31, 2024.

Previously, Aloha Green Apoth provided testimony which successfully amended HB1217 during House hearing so that the 5 patient limit would include Department of Health (DOH) discretion to authorize caregiver grows with more than 5 patients with prior authorization. We submit there

may be circumstances where more than 5 patients per caregiver location is reasonable and safe. We hoped that by providing the DOH regulator with discretion this would allow for regulatory flexibility. As a company regulated by the DOH, we believe the DOH has the knowledge and experience to ensure medicine grown by a third party is done so in a safe manner to protect patients and the community. Hawaii does not allow food to be sold unless it meets some sanitation standard, why should medicine be any different when provided to a 3rd party? Hawaii also regulates commercial agriculture to protect the environment and the community.

After reviewing recent data provided by DOH on the size and number of caregiver grows in Hawaii, we now believe that raising the caregiver limit to 50 patients per caregiver location is important. There are a total of eighty-eight caregiver grow sites with more than 5 patients registered in the State of Hawaii. A limit of 50 patients per caregiver location would allow for eighty-seven large caregiver grows currently registered with the State to continue business as usual. There would be no change to current caregiver operations for 87 of 88 caregiver locations. The eighty-eighth and largest caregiver location would need to seek DOH approval for their operations.

Aloha Green Apoth believes in the importance of caregiver grows to provide a choice of medicine, but commercial sized farming should be regulated for the safety of the community. Applying an outdoor cultivation average of 10 square feet per cannabis plant, a 50 patient grow would allow for 500 plants and require about 5000 square feet of outdoor cultivation space. Five thousand square feet of cultivation is a relatively large commercial operation even by illicit market standards in Hawaii. The medical cannabis program sets out a caregiver sunset on December 31, 2024 so allowing caregivers to operate commercial or large-scale cannabis farming is against the legislative intent of the medical cannabis program; unless there is a path to future cultivation licensing which will require regulation by the DOH. Why not allow DOH to provide regulation guidance now so that larger caregiver grows may find a legal path to cultivation after the caregiver sunset? It is important to note that the caregiver sunset does not apply to caregiver grows located on islands without a medical cannabis dispensary.

Only through regulations and oversight of commercial sized caregiver grows can we get to the point where caregiver growers can one day apply and receive potential state cultivation licenses in the future. The safety of the community, patients and first responders should be considered in order to build the integrity of a sustainable Hawaiian cannabis industry.

Thank you for your leadership in Hawaii's cannabis industry.

MEASURE: HB1217, HD2, RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023      TIME: 1:01 PM

TESTIFIER: Brian Goldstein

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS**

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Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

HB1217, HD2 represents a critical step in reinforcing the integrity of Hawaii's medical cannabis law. The proposed bill seeks to amend various statutory provisions to curb the proliferation of unlicensed dispensaries that operate under the guise of agricultural cooperatives.

The need for such measures is particularly pressing in Oahu, where an unlicensed and unregulated company operates one of the state's largest cannabis grow sites on the North Shore of Oahu. This company masquerades as a cooperative, but in reality, it is a for-profit LLC that can grow over 10,000 cannabis plants at a single location - significantly more than the maximum allowed for licensed dispensaries.

This unregulated and unlicensed dispensary poses a serious threat to public health and safety. They sell products that are not required to be tested for prohibited chemicals, heavy metals, or pesticides, and offer highly potent products that exceed the limits allowed in licensed dispensaries. Moreover, they do not use a seed-to-sale tracking system to prevent diversion, and there are no limits on the amount of cannabis that may be purchased.

In contrast, licensed dispensaries operate within strict regulations and are required to test products for potency and contaminants, limit the amount of cannabis that can be purchased, and use seed-to-sale tracking systems.

In light of these significant risks, I urge you to support SB962 SD1, HD1 to ensure that medical cannabis is dispensed through legitimate, regulated channels that prioritize public health and safety.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 8:42:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD2.

Thank you.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:56:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SUPPORT HB1217 HD2

FROM: TOM BERG

IF YOU OPPOSE THIS MEASURE, PLEASE ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING FACTUAL EVIDENTIARY PROCESS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED BY THE STATE OF HAWAII TO “OVERSEE” MEDICAL MARIJUANA GROW SITES- WHAT A JOKE and here is proof- reality in your face:

July 1, 2020

I, Tom Berg, agent for property owner, had executed a lease for a 3.4 acre parcel to a farmer of which property (94-405 Kunia Road, Waipahu HI 96797) was used as an address to register 39 individual medical marijuana card holders with DOH.

October 5, 2021

Lessee with 39 cards at property, product at maximum growth, seeking to harvest, is forced off property by (what I call squatters/trespassers/CULT)- otherwise referenced as the Occupied Forces Hawaii Army- and a new lock was placed on our property entrance by Occupied Forces Hawaii Army with HPD present and condoned by HPD to keep our rightful lessee and the property owner out, and thereby the Attorney General, Governor, Lt. Governor, DOH, Sheriff /Narcotics Division, and State Ag Dept were all notified of this commandeering/ confiscation of hundreds of plants of this mature crop and to take action.

Here is how THE LAW handled the matter:

All listed above in law enforcement and with authority to regulate the grow site, determined the “new group” in charge of the grow site called the Occupied Forces Hawaii Army, had a right to control the 39 cards- and utilize the harvest as the Occupied Forces Hawaii Army saw fit to consume, and traffic.

**I, Tom Berg, made numerous calls to DOH and spoke to numerous personnel there and apprised them that 39 card holders could no longer access the property and to please go to the property and investigate- DOH refused to act...rather, DOH ignored the matter.**

After 9-months of battling judges who kept honoring name changes of the “cult members” in control of the crop- delaying the ejectment (writ of possession) with phony “I wasn’t served properly” claims- ejectment finally took place in July of 2022 with get this---the Sheriff Deputy and HPD claiming on the return of the property to my employer, in writing mind you, that, “No marijuana was found on the property” in their REPORT. OMG

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/07/hawaiian-occupied-forces-group-ousted-from-kunia-property-by-police/>

**A certain few corrupt HPD and Sheriff Deputy members in my opinion concocted a false report to cover up for the illicit grow that they orchestrated and facilitated hiding behind the front of the Occupied Forces Hawaii Army** and I, Tom Berg, after calling Mr. Jared Redulla (State Narcotics Enforcement Division) the next day after the ejectment- sent Mr. Redulla photos of the goodies- real pot plants that HPD had claimed did not exist of which were in plain sight - and removed by Narcotics the following morning in various full production stages.

We not only have a corrupt HPD (and it’s all the way to the Mayor and Attorney General)- who knowingly knew that “bad actors” had taken over a pot farm, did nothing- absolutely nothing – and until I brought this to the TV/news media to expose this nightmare, DOH had all along, had the ADMINISTRATIVE RULE to conduct an unannounced visit and inspect the property FROM DAY ONE AND ABATE THE MATTER- but DOH had

refused to do so, REFUSED TO GO TO THE PROPERTY and this reeks of foul play- thus, **HB1217 HD2 is the very tool a law abiding society expects to be on the table to get relief- pass it- don't let the 'Wild West' syndrome expand, please.**

One final comment - HPD had not only given the squatters the 3.4 acres- but additional 25-acres based on fraud- plus 4-acres of the Hawaii Country Club Golf Course property too, also based on fraud- there is a law called FORGERY IN THE THIRD DEGREE- and when I and our lawyer presented to Sheriff and HPD our Writ of Possession ordered by the court with command by the court to eject the cult- get this---the cult fabricated a false instrument- claiming they had a court date in the future that prevented the ejection- and get this- HPD and Sheriffs honored the THIRD DEGREE FORGERY even though HOIKE website and all court filings illustrated the claim made by the cult was fabricated- but alas---HPD and Sheriff expanded the acreage confiscated/ gave it to the cult to protect the illicit pot grow and gave the pot growers (cult) more time to harvest their pot operation.

I advanced a charge to prosecute the THIRD DEGREE FORGERY - a formal complaint to prosecutor - and advised the mayor/HPD/attorney general- full on exposing this corruption- that it is against the law to present TO LAW ENFORCEMENT that a formal government document exists such as a phony court date and phony judge action when IT DOES NOT exist in reality- **that's fraud in the third degree-** but our left wing liberal nut job Honolulu City Prosecutor Alm refused to take heed- and get this- Alm even dismissed my charges against the cult members that assaulted me on golf course property sending me to the emergency room where I could not walk for two weeks- and it's all on video /me being assaulted by the cult members who attacked me while I was on private property, the golf course, where I work....cult pot heads were disrupting our business operations stealing our water and crapping directly on farmland which is illegal- we don't allow outhouses to store crap directly in the ground- the pot heads had three crappers polluting nearby neighboring farms but DOH and State Ag and City Environmental folks refused to take action and refused to enforce the laws - and it was illegal to live there- illegal to run army camp there- all in non-compliance and the State and City did sh\$t to protect the aina.

See- if Alm were to do his job, my charges exposing the pot farm run by corrupt cops would be front page news- so Alm and his goons with DOH failed to act/or dismissed complaints to hide the corruption----and along with some weird judges "on the take" in my opinion along the way making up weird rulings to protect people who change their names over and over to delay court proceedings---so please pass HB1217 HD2 and protect us law abiding citizens from corrupt government officials in on the take for they too- are in on some of the pot deals/ clandestine operation and it is as real as reality gets.

"Steal a little and they throw you in jail, steal a lot and they make you king." Bob Dylan

Mahalo

Tom Berg



## Testimony for HB1217

Strong Opposition against limiting medical cannabis grow sites to only 5 qualified patients, allowing the Department Of Health to perform searches and seizures of medical grow sites, and criminalizing everyone who produces, manufactures, or dispenses medical cannabis without a dispensary license.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

### Additional Comments

Furthermore, if you only allow the current, 8 licensed dispensaries with a safe and legal path to provide cannabis for our communities, you would be knowingly and intentionally solidifying their current, monopolistic model, indefinitely. A choice your name will be attached to... indefinitely.

Before doing so, it might be worth considering...

Does it make sense to give those who currently own the "legal cannabis" market in Hawaii, further expansion of that monopolistic model while simultaneously stopping, minimizing and criminalizing anyone but those 8 license holders to provide plant medicine to our communities?

It may be worth considering the following, "Cookies", a BILLION DOLLAR GLOBAL CANNABIS BRAND, is already distributing their cannabis products through one of of Oahu's licensed 8 dispensaries. These types of global, cannabis companies are discretely referred to by the cannabis industry, as "MSO's". MSO stands for "Multi State Operator". Cookies cannabis brand is an "MSO".

Cookies cannabis brand currently, "has dispensaries, lounges, and lifestyle stores in 4 countries, 17 markets both medical and recreational, with a total of 40 storefronts." As per this 1/28/22 Forbes article

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lindseybartlett/2022/01/28/berner-talks-wiz-khalifa-partnership-cookies->

[expansion-and-healing-with-cannabis/?sh=106b94d7450f](https://www.cannabisbusinesstimes.com/news/cookies-to-debut-in-hawaii/)

MSO, Cookies cannabis brand currently has 3 "Cookies Corners" inside of 3 of Oahu's dispensaries. MSO's are already doing business in Hawaii through licensed medical cannabis dispensaries. You'll find an article link regarding this Hawaii dispensary / MSO partnership here:

<https://www.cannabisbusinesstimes.com/news/cookies-to-debut-in-hawaii/>

Below is a direct quote from the Cannabis Business Times article, from the CEO of Noa Botanicals: "We are humbled to partner with Cookies and provide our patients authentic products from one of the most well-respected and sought-after cannabis brands in the world," said Bill Jarvis, CEO of Noa Botanicals. "Our partnership allows us to offer a broader selection that includes local strains, patient favorites, and now, internationally-recognized cultivars, to the Hawaii market."

Let that quote sink in: "Our partnership allows us to offer a broader selection that includes.... internationally-recognized cultivars, to the Hawaii market."

If OUT-OF-STATE billion dollar cannabis companies can sell their cannabis products in Hawaii, why should the local community not be allowed to legally do the same?

If you listen to the community, your constituents, it's clear that communities throughout the islands are making fair & reasonable asks such as: the ability to produce, provide and consume plant medicine safely in an open, free market. A market where the opportunities and plant diversity are preserved and protected for all. Not only a few, as is currently being pushed by HICIA.

In summary, if current and future laws allow the current, 8 dispensary license holders to further expand their market share and opportunities, why not offer the same rights and protection for local people who have provided plant medicine to Hawaii's communities since the beginning of recorded history?

Shouldn't the people of Hawaii be able to participate in the same way that farmers markets are able to thrive? How boring and unethical would it be if only Big Box corporations could provide all of Hawaii's food, while those same Big Box corporations lobby to pass laws that ban all locals from growing and selling their own plants and produce?

At the end of the day, it's not "Us against Them".... It's ALL OF US against the End of Prohibition.

Here's to passing sensible laws that learn from the past and create a history that we can all look back on, and be proud of.

Mahalo nui for your time & consideration,

Aimee Donzis

**Name**

Aimee Donzis

**Email**

aimeedonzis@yahoo.com

## Testimony for HB1217

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

### Additional Comments

More convenient dispensaries. Tax, tax use, industry finance, discussions and frameworks established. Full legalization of recreational, leisure, and medical market will prevent criminal or opportunistic businesses and punitive intrusive or corrupt public practices.

**Name** Albert Del Rlo

**Email** referee-floe.09@icloud.com

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**Email** girlz173@hotmail.com

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

### Additional Comments

Time to quit antiquated thinking and return to sensible approach to healing within the ecosystem we are a part of. Time to use all of nature's healing afforded us freely as it was intended. Enough government control of our health.

**Name** Brian Kasai

**Email** bkasai808@gmail.com

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**Email** blventerpriseplus@gmail.com

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**Email** Csquared789@gmail.com

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**Email** chalezk@gmail.com

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**Email** chanelxfranco@gmail.com

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**Email** ctatsuhara123@gmail.com

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**Email** fugusashimix@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

Medical marijuana has resolved multiple symptoms of my Rheumatoid Arthritis that had been painful and inflexible joint affecting my ability to conduct my daily life. I use oral products to dose myself to the extent that the problem is ameliorated for some time until requiring an additional dose. Daily dose is typically adequate. All of these oral products, gummies, chocolate, drops requires farming of the plants an then significant processing to create the edible products with provide measurable dosing to achieve desire relief.

**Name** Dana Ware

**Email** DEWare@aol.com

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### Additional Comments

Medical caregivers are the heart of the compassion community and we vote. For all your aunts, uncles and kupuna whom suffer from chronic pain, cancer and many other forms of disease - they will continue to need medicine grown by loving hands in fertile organic soils. This will never happen by corporations. The middle ground is preserving the communities ability to sustain access to grow their own while giving corporations the ability to do the same, that's fair. Anything less is a slap in the face to loyal voters.

**Name** daniel anthony

**Email** iiawah@hotmail.com

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**Email** danielmtshane@gmail.com

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**Email** danthomas45678@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

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**Email** dnalightrae@yahoo.com

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HB1217 is a bad step backwards into tyrannical government oppression of Hawaiians. It obviously comes from the greed of corporate fascists who put their profiteering before people. Shame on those who seek to entrap innocents!

**Name** David Ostwald

**Email** david069@hawaii.edu



## Testimony for HB1217

Strong Opposition against limiting medical cannabis grow sites to only 5 qualified patients, allowing the Department Of Health to perform searches and seizures of medical grow sites, and criminalizing everyone who produces, manufactures, or dispenses medical cannabis without a dispensary license.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

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**Name** David White

**Email** kawikawhite@icloud.com

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**Email** dianej412@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

This is outrageous that we are still discussing laws around marijuana in the year 2023.

Let the people grow and smoke their plants for crying out loud. They're doing it anyway with or without your consent.

Not to mention the tremendous amount of money the state will lose putting such laws into effect. It's 2023 Hawaii should be at the forefront of the finest marijuana on earth but yet here we are losing money as always in the most expensive state of Hawaii. We don't have anymore time to take anymore losses. Make it all the way legal and let go of the wacky tobacky stigma. If you don't use marijuana that's fine but don't stop the ones that do. Not to mention alcohol is way more worse than marijuana with way more long term side effects and that's legal as all out doors.

**Name** Dorian Baez

**Email** omi1975.db@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

This is a correction of my previous letter. I mentioned there's a 7 plants max but hawaii law is 10 plants.

**Name** Edward Ramos

**Email** Ramosec@yahoo.com

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The current law of 7 plants in any stage is barely enough to get by. Like any other agriculture crop, it is not a guaranty that the harvest will be the same amount. There are pest, environment, weather, cost, and other factors to consider. The previous wind storm destroyed half of my inventory. In addition, I had helicopters fly over my crops every week for 3 weeks sometimes 2 times a week even knowing that I am a registered 329 patient and flying so low that I could see their eyes. Instead of limiting our access, how about protecting ours and caregiver's rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Unless the state can provide or pay for our medicine like any other prescribed drugs then this bill has no rights. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. Don't touch my meds.

**Name** Edward Ramos

**Email** ramossec@yahoo.com

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**Email** Elizabeth.M.Robinson.15@gmail.com

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**Email** ewinrus@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

I've been a humble farmer for over a decade. I am native hawaiian and cannabis along with other holistic remedies is used as my cultural practice (la'au lapa'au). For years I have been fighting tooth and nail for the rights to provide my ohana medicine. Personally I have seen multiple remission cases when using this plant, this bill will put a cap on not only us humble farmers and our work providing the ohana with medicine. With this bill I will have to sit and watch as my family with medical issues deteriorate while watching them fork over their hard earned money to an entity which doesn't care about the individual like I do. So I strongly oppose this bill and other like it. I believe cannabis is a God send to mankind, so to regulate it on such a level is horrible.

**Name** Elsworth Kaanaana

**Email** Kkaanaana13@gmail.com



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**Email** 70nats@gmail.com

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**Email** ericpam@outlook.com

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**Name** Erin Goldbeck

**Email** eringspinks@hotmail.com

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### Additional Comments

Additional restrictions are not needed.

**Name** Ernest Saxton

**Email** evsaxton@live.com

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**Email** flynnnovak@yahoo.com

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**Email** gpreciado808@gmail.com

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**Name** Georgann Ahsing  
**Email** honu\_4@yahoo.com

## Testimony for HB1217

Strong Opposition against limiting medical cannabis grow sites to only 5 qualified patients, allowing the Department Of Health to perform searches and seizures of medical grow sites, and criminalizing everyone who produces, manufactures, or dispenses medical cannabis without a dispensary license.

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I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

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**Name** Gidi Brown

**Email** kalaib1982@gmail.com



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**Name** Haunani Torres-Kaulia

**Email** papaigawa1935@gmail.com

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**Name** Heather Taclas

**Email** heathertaclas@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

The construction of this bill will only cause medical patients to retreat from the dispensary programs. You are not building trust with the cannabis community in creating aggressive laws that limit/attack production of the medicine we need to grow to survive. You are limiting the amount of growth in each phase of growth, which in turn, limits production and quality. The people of Hawaii already don't trust their law makers. Why create animosity through yet another pathway to your community?

**Name** Heidi Payne

**Email** hydiz777@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the big island!

<b>Name</b>	Henry Bell
<b>Email</b>	puka_bell@yahoo.com

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**Email** hhanawahine@yahoo.com

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**Name** HYUN JOON KIM

**Email** kimeddie808@hotmail.com

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### Additional Comments

I am strongly against bill HB1217. We don't need medical patients to be put under any more scrutiny than they already have been. Do the right thing and allow patients to make a choice on using a caregiver or a dispensary. Not everyone in Hawaii has the money to pay the outrageous prices set by dispensaries.

**Name** Jacob Britt

**Email** supahawaii@gmail.com

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## **Additional Comments**

It is unconscionable to think that lawmakers are trying to take away access to medicine from its citizens, but that is what this bill would do. The dispensaries have nowhere near the amount of products needed for patients like me with severe chronic pain, and if we were forced to have only the dispensaries as a resource, it would mean patients going into bankruptcy just to afford their medicine. Dispensaries do not offer cannabis pills at dosage levels needed for chronic pain, nor do they offer any kind of real discount for patients who require larger amounts per month. Without grow sites that cater to large groups of patients, I and many others like me would be left with no recourse for our pain. I was dependent on opioid painkillers for almost a decade, and it not only caused irreversible damage to my body, they often would not manage my symptoms well enough, even at their maximum dosage. It wasn't until I got my 329 card, and more importantly, introduced to an incredible grower that I was given a true medical miracle. Now I can live a somewhat normal life, without any of the horrible side effects I lived with for years I've been off opioids for 4 years this month, and I know it's because of growers like mine and all the others out there that this is possible. Please do not block patients from receiving this miracle in their lives, the misery and despair that comes from untreated pain and illness is indescribable, and by blocking this bill, it is completely preventable.

**Name** Jael Esther Simonson Tunick

**Email** jael.tunick@gmail.com

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Currently, as of last session, the caregiver sunset is 12/31/24. Regardless, there is no justification for terminating a program that serves 75% of patients who choose not to use the dispensaries. It is cruel and sinful for lawmakers to force patients into a system that they have rejected. This will only breed more lawlessness and a continuation of the failed policy of prohibition. It is long past time to end the war on drugs. A good place to start is by opposing this bill.

**Name** James Anthony

**Email** James@AnthonyLaw.group

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Follow the money from dispensary owners to campaign contributions of politicians selling out the public for personal gain.

**Name** James Emery

**Email** jse808@yahoo.com

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**Email** aquinojanelle@gmail.com

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I need 10 not 5

**Name**

jason dacquel

**Email**

dablindguys808@gmail.com

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**Name** Jeffrey F Mizuno

**Email** jfmizuno@gmail.com

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**Email** jennifernoelle77@gmail.com

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**Email** jennifer.malaya.ong.cua@gmail.com

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**Email** jeromebrynda@yahoo.com

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### Additional Comments

I am writing to you to you in strong opposition of HB1217 I would ask that you consider the patients at this time

Remembering that we are sick a lot of us dying. Others of using this plant to heal from major pain and body trauma.

This being said most of us unable to work the way we used to others of us on disability making less than 600 dollars per month to send these patients to the dispensaries where the price of a week worth of medication is 350 dollars and up will surely cause irreparable suffering for the masses who need to take medication to survive. We have to not only think about the financial implications but also the excruciating pain that patients who can't afford it any longer .

The care giver program with the. Co op to the patients is a family a safe place to go to learn and heal. An ohana of support and love

Please also take into account patients don't get tax write offs for choosing to go the natural way to health

Our insurance doesn't cover doctors or medications so taking this away from patients would surely have substantial impact on the quality of life of this 329 community

5 plants per caregiver will not allow them enough to take care of 5 patients due to growing conditions  
Let's take time to work together for a healthy thriving community and leave the current law that  
sunsets in December

**Name** Jessica Bisson

**Email** jaiexoticvisionsinc@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

I oppose this limitation against us. We should always be able to grow. Hawaii no stop growing hello! Even through a drought the whole Hawaii grows. EVERYTHING GROWS!

**Name** Jonah Kaholoaa  
**Email** jonah97p@gmail.com

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**Email** joshuajarola@gmail.com

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**Email** collinjosh@gmail.com



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**Email** Justinacobsanchez@yahoo.com

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**Email** kaleikeala367@gmail.com

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**Email** kanerediske54@gmail.com

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**Email** kaniho84@gmail.com

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**Email** karencook69@yahoo.com

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**Name** KAREN PHARMER  
**Email** spiritsoul\_108@yahoo.com

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### Additional Comments

As a 329 patient and a grad student in both public health and health care administration I also learned my ancestor Native American used cannabis for health and ailments. After years of tension headaches and prescription drugs that caused nightmares I ate a THC infused sugar tab that allowed me to have excellent sleep and I woke up free from an 11 day tension headache. Evidence-based practice and the TRIPPS Agreement do not go hand in hand of care yet are valid. I can not grow where I live to have access to plant trim to make my own massage topical oil I apply to my neck and upper back. I have been unable to secure a grower/caregiver nor can I afford to pay for plant materials or pay a grower for their growing expenses. CBD and THC are very different and science can be supported to how the policy needs to be written to protect every level of care from the seed, soil, plant growth, plant care, plant cultivation, plant processing, plant testing, and plant distribution. I am honored to be earning my MPH in a few weeks and finish my graduate program this summer in healthcare administration. I want to be an asset to the cannabis community and advocate for those who are suffering and those who have had success with cannabis use.



**Name**

Katrina Martinez

**Email**

ka\_turtle@hotmail.com

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**Email** k.g.jury@gmail.com

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**Email** kkevinm100@gmail.com

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**Email** findkisha@gmail.com

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**Email** kristalbiven808@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

Just ANOTHER reason for government to chip away at our rights, to make us as A PEOPLE , have no voice ! DICTATORSHIP on full display 🙄🙄🙄

**Name** Lorenzo Jantoc

**Email** ljantoc420@gmail.com

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**Name** Maddie Meheula  
**Email** maddie.meheula@gmail.com

## Testimony for HB1217

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**Email** makenanye@outlook.com



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**Name** Manuel Diaz  
**Email** Diazmanu@hawaii.edu

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**Name** Marcia Eovino  
**Email** marcia808hi@gmail.com

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**Name** Maribeth Greene  
**Email** mbkgreene@icloud.com

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**Name** Marleigh Caballero  
**Email** marleigh92@yahoo.com

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### Additional Comments

The farm at Care Wailua is a life saver for me. I am 60 years old and have limited funds. I have a genetic disease that causes literally 1000's of tumors all over my body. They cause pain but are not cancerous. There are so many of them that removal is not an option. Because of the pain and disfigurement I have high anxiety. Marijuana has helped me with the pain and anxiety, and even the intractable itching. I was over 300 pounds a year ago. And using the sativa gave me the energy and courage to go exercise every day and I've lost over 100 pounds. If not for the farm I couldn't afford this medicine. Please reconsider this. The many kapuna who depend on the farm are the ones who will be hurt.

**Name** Mary Clark

**Email** marymed1962@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

We need the medicine that cannabis provides.

<b>Name</b>	Mary Khan
<b>Email</b>	mkhan52@live.com

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**Name** Mattie Tolbert

**Email** tolberty001@icloud.com

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**Email** megantronkm@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

Creating political prisoners with bills aimed at limiting, restricting, or otherwise criminalizing Hawaii's \*medical\* cannabis community is simply unconscionable. Please reconsider the passage of this bill. along with any others that prioritize profit and industry over patients. Mahalo for your time.

**Name** Megan Crandall

**Email** miztron88@gmail.com

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**Email** masari@hawaii.rr.com

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### Additional Comments

Oppose. The Department of Health resources should be spent adding value to the entire community. Our community has vastly different cultures and imposing your culture on our culture is not Pono.

**Name** Minda Good  
**Email** mindag@hawaii.edu

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**Name** Nickie Tavares

**Email** nickietavares@gmail.com

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**Email** noellacoleman@gmail.com

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**Email** obusenba@gmail.com



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**Email** boxeotkaulia@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

Consider that 329 card holders all want to be able to use this medication within the bounds of the law but creating unrealistic limits will only criminalize otherwise law-abiding citizens. These laws are designed to manufacture crime in a state that already has an abundance.

**Name** Peter Comilla

**Email** kona51@rocketmail.com

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Testimony for HB1217-opposed

**Name** Philippa Marko

**Email** flipmarko808@gmail.com

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**Email** pakadaka@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

I need this medicine to help with chronic pain from a disability. When I had to rely on a dispensary, I couldn't afford enough medicine to keep pain under control. Only since joining the co op at Care Waialua, have I been able to afford to stay out of pain. Please don't restrict my access by not supporting their mission to take Care of their patients. Mahalo

**Name** Reggie Moore

**Email** heygale@yahoo.com

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**Email** stylesbyrenee@gmail.com

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**Email** rmagilljr7@gmail.com

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**Email** freshfromthegarden@gmail.com

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**Email** punshayne@yahoo.com

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### Additional Comments

We need to look to the future and many states have led the way .... to criminalize cannabis is a giant step backwards. Sustainable crops may help Hawaii's economy but are thwarted by draconian, byzantine laws that have evolved around this issue.

**Name** shayne stambler

**Email** shayne808@hawaii.rr.com

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**Name** Shaynon Kim

**Email** kimkamalei3@gmail.com

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This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**Name** Shepherd Kawakami

**Email** shep33058@gmail.com

## Testimony for HB1217

Strong Opposition against limiting medical cannabis grow sites to only 5 qualified patients, allowing the Department Of Health to perform searches and seizures of medical grow sites, and criminalizing everyone who produces, manufactures, or dispenses medical cannabis without a dispensary license.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

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### Additional Comments

Please allow the help Cannabis provides to the patients that benefit from its medicinal uses

**Name** Steven Brandau

**Email** skbrandau@aol.com

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**Name** STEVEN SAMUEL ZORRO SOUL ZÉ AQÜÁX ZÁ BÜR, 1 DE GRUY

**Email** ZORRO1ZABUR@GMAIL.COM

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**Name** Summer Escajeda

**Email** s.mauistar@gmail.com



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### Additional Comments

I work in integrative health with people who suffer from both chronic anxiety and complex chronic conditions. Legal access to specific strains of organically grown medical cannabis flowers has been a game changer for countless people's lives. In a world where it's legal to consume, make our selves sick from and even kill ourselves (and others) with highly addictive and destructive substances like alcohol and processed "foods," the fact that anyone in Hawaii is still trying to hinder safe access to this powerfully healing plant that grows naturally all over the planet is truly criminal.

**Name** Traci Potterf

**Email** traci@potterf.com

## Testimony for HB1217

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**Name** Tracy Hironaka-Keao

**Email** tracy@uncleeds.com

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

### Additional Comments

I am opposed to these measures. There is no need for more stringent regulation of medical marijuana

**Name** Trevor Adkins

**Email** tadkins4200@gmail.com

## Testimony for HB1217

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### Additional Comments

I have personally found that non dispensary cannabis is of better quality and more affordable. I suffer from chronic pain. Cannabis is my medicine. THC & CBD. I no longer need to use narcotic pain medication.

As a patient, I should be able to choose my sources for my medicine. And, it be affordable as well! I prefer shopping for my produce at farmers markets. Not at the huge corporate grocery stores. I should be able to have the same choice with my medicinal plants!!!

This bill is harmful to the cannabis patients and only benefits the corporate dispensaries. Please allow us to choose.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**Name**

Victoria Kach

**Email**

808vickik@gmail.com

## Testimony for HB1217

Strong Opposition against limiting medical cannabis grow sites to only 5 qualified patients, allowing the Department Of Health to perform searches and seizures of medical grow sites, and criminalizing everyone who produces, manufactures, or dispenses medical cannabis without a dispensary license.

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**Name** Vincent Salas

**Email** 670champeii691@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

I believe that there are many patients whom do not have the skills or land space to operate a grow site. This law will discriminate against patients whom are financially unable to afford dispensary prices, lack the proper location or space to grow or just lack skills to grow crops.

I strongly Oppose HB1217, It does not protect patients' and caregiver' rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. I believe this HB is not to protect the consumer but for the benefits the Big Business. If the Super Markets said that consumers increased but Open Markets got the market share, you would make a HB to combat that for big business?

Aloha,  
Wayne Nakamoto

**Name** Wayne Nakamoto

**Email** nakamotorealty1@gmail.com

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**Name** Wes Beckett

**Email** wes@wesbeckett.com



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**Name** Zachary Cruz  
**Email** zcruz671@gmail.com

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### Additional Comments

Aloha,

I oppose this bill because it doesn't fix any problems with the current medical system. Many patients cannot consume raw cannabis plant material, it's been their right to create medical cannabis recipes in Hawaii for over 20 years as part of the Hawaii medical cannabis program. For many patients, custom, homemade remedies are the only option due to peculiar effects of a specific strain of cannabis, or the custom Recipe used to extract cannabinoids and terpenes.

Price plays a factor into making home remedies. In the same way you might start a garden because you can't always be buying the fanciest organic tomatoes, we cannot force patients depend on retail medical cannabis as our sole source of medicine.

Without precedence to illustrate the danger of post harvest cannabis recipes, this bill only limits the options patients have for precision care, while stifling the innovation that has been generated historically by medical cannabis patients, caregivers and farmers. Why would we want to stop that? Finally, this bill only exacerbates the artificial scarcity of cannabis products in Hawaii. The limiting of growing and manufacturing products would increase buying pressure in patients, causing prices to increase due to high demand for limited offerings. This could severely hurt patients in rural and

economically challenged areas of Hawaii.

I strongly believe that we should find ways to include growers and caregivers in the current medical cannabis market by allowing 5,000 square feet of grow canopy for who wants to grow cannabis, along with the ability to make tested, food safe products under provisions already established for food/ hemp product manufacturing. Plant counts don't work, and we need a way for Hawaii talents in the cannabis space to do their work in their communities legally.

Mahalo for your consideration

Zane DeMello  
Honihoni Farm  
Paumalu, O'ahu

**Name**

Zane Demello

**Email**

zdemello51@gmail.com

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:55:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karl Michael Kvalvik	Testifying for Cannabis 329 Patient	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of this Council,

I strongly Oppose HB 1217.

HB1217 only serves to punish those that follow the law and grow their cannabis with Legacy Cooperative Farms.

Cooperative Medical Cannabis Farms should be allowed to continue operating as grow sites for 329 patients, un-molested by limits.

If the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association (HICIA) successfully lobbies and passes legislation that shuts down their competition while establishing foreign cannabis farms on Hawaii land; the people will not turn to dispensaries, they will turn to black markets.

The only way forward with sustainable cannabis law in Hawaii remains the process of Pono thinking and planning. Anything else would be a whistling while Rome burns.

The State of Hawaii would not begin imprisoning people for “illegally” growing their own cannabis for personal use, that would be a step backwards – and that’s not where this country is going.

We are letting people out of jail for Cannabis charges, not the other way around.

We do not support big business laws that seek to punch down on the people’s right to grow sustainable medicine.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Karl Kvalvik

808-518-7806

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 5:13:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michal C Cohen	Testifying for Michal Cohen, LCSW	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michal Cohen, I am a licensed clinical social worker and I reside in Kaka'ako. I provide therapy to people who have PTSD and many of my clients use cannabis to alleviate their symptoms.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:47:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani, RN/BSN

RE: HB1217 –in **Strong Opposition**

Hearing: March 22, 2023 at 1:01 pm in Conf. Room 225 & Video

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani. I am a Cannabis Nurse (BSN/RN) who has been a resident of Oahu for 30 years and a medical cannabis patient advocate for 8 years. I am writing in **STRONG** opposition to HB1217 as it is regressive policy that will potentially cause harm to thousands of patients and their supportive communities.

In 2014, I was involved with the HCR48 Task Force. Our main task was to Develop Recommendations for The Establishment of a Regulated Statewide Dispensary System for Medical Marijuana. The **rationale used to establish the need for dispensaries** included the fact that many **patients lack the ability to grow their own supply**, partly because of **limited space to grow it**. When we passed the dispensary bill in 2015 the intent was to allow for a dispensary system **in ADDITION** to the patient (or caregiver) growers, not as a replacement.

Hawaii’s medical cannabis program now serves more than 33,000 patients. 85% of them use cannabis to treat chronic and debilitating pain (See DOH website stats). According to the Hawai’i Cannabis Industry Association’s survey, 75% of the patients have found a way to grow their own (or get it) without relying on a dispensary (HCIA.org). This means that most patients have managed to find a steady supply of the **RIGHT types of medicine(s) that work best for them**. For some patients, it may take years to find the right ones. And it may be the only medicine that works for them.

I am opposed to HB1217 because **it introduces regressive policies** that are in direct opposition to the original intentions of the compassionate use of cannabis legislation laws passed in 2000. It



does so **without offering solutions** or suggestions on how to prevent some of the many potential harms it may cause to patients and the medical cannabis program.

Some of the original intentions of the 2000 bill were to remove **barriers to patient access** through **decriminalizing** of possession and the acts of growing-your-own and **manufacturing-your-own** medicines. For nearly 23 years now, our patients (or caregivers) have been allowed to grow (and manufacture) their own medicine(s) and this should REMAIN intact.

Because the original law was silent about where patients were to legally obtain seeds or plants, they have been **operating in a “gray area” for 23 years**. Many have had to become creative in finding a place to grow. They have done so by growing in a supportive collective community that divides the labor and costs, making their medicines much more affordable and accessible than dispensary products.

Currently there is no limit on the number of cards that can be “stacked” and perhaps there should be a limit in the future—just not this way—by choosing arbitrary numbers such as 5 or 20 cards.

- HB1217 proposes to **recriminalize** patients and grow sites who “stack” more than 5 cards.

So, If this bill passes, **someone will have to decide which patients can no longer have access to their grow site and their medicine(s)**.

Will that be the job of the DOH or the grow site manager or Law Enforcement? If the patient is harmed by the act, will that person be liable for taking away a patient’s medicine?

For example, a patient who uses cannabis for pain management may have to find other ways to manage pain and may turn to more harmful substances such as addictive opioids.

Will anyone help patients find affordable medicines or subsidize the expense? I would also like to know what penalties might be imposed upon patients who become criminalized?

A few last words regarding the quality and safety of the medicines.

- Current studies indicate that cannabis plants grown **outdoors** had a **greater diversity of (the therapeutic type of) terpenes**, compared to **indoor cannabis** from the **same genetic stock**.
- These same plants produced slightly higher levels of a potentially therapeutic cannabinoid, cannabichromenic acid (CBCA)-- (Molecules 2023).
- Organic farming methods can preserve and enhance the complex biota of the earth’s soil in a way that retains carbon and helps **to offset global warming**. Outdoor grows require fewer resources, have a lower carbon footprint and lower costs.
- And, remember, that turning to the black market for medicine is less safe than growing it on an organic farm.

I respectfully ask that you do not pass this bill as it could be detrimental to the health of thousands of medical cannabis patients and cause further damage to the medical cannabis program.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns with this regressive bill.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani BSN/RN

Cannabis Nurse Educator

Kailua (808) 321-4503

Cannabisnursewendygv@gmail.com

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:36:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abir Amirdash	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

**I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1217.** This bill adds no value to our medical program but rather inflicts harm on patients & their families, their caregivers, and farmers. Cannabis has been established as medicine with various healing capabilities and modalities. So why do we keep writing bills that limit access to it?

This bill proposes limits on limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to five which is not sufficient, especially in Hawaii which is home to multigenerational Ohanas. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation occurs, nor does it consider rural neighboring islands where patients and caregivers rely on cultivating their medicine.

This bill not only limits access to cannabis but also criminalizes the exchange of manufactured products between patients.

The bill's language in regard to the DOH searches seems punitive and criminalizes collectives or individuals who produce, manufacture or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. These checks should be arranged prior to visitation and should have a valid reason for inspection of the site.

We put our trust and faith in you as legislators to represent our best interests. I am calling on you to do the right thing and oppose this bill. Do not take away patient rights.

**Suggested amendments:**

- Collectives and registered to-grow sites of over 5 patients can apply to register as a collective with the DOH without exhausting fees.
- Create a working task force from representatives of patients, collectives, and the DOH to formulate a set of bylaws and rules that serve everyone's interest.
- Adding language to protect patients' and caregivers' rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access.

- Stop the sunset of the caregiver program on 12/31/24 or provide an extension for it.

Mahalo,

Abby Amirdash

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 8:26:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
celia tapp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am absolutely appalled by the language in this bill. Like I said in earlier testimony, there are better ways to address License stacking! I am a new mother, it took me 8 years and multiple miscarriages to get to where I am today. For my own reasons, I decided years ago that I would opt to use non-pulmonary options while pregnant and breast feeding. I use a deep foundational knowledge of traditional herbalism to create safe and effective non-pulmonary non-psychoactive compounds for medicinal use. If not for cannabis, I would be left with sumatriptan as my only pain relieving option. For those of you who are not familiar with sumatriptan, it's a class C US FDA pharmaceutical drug shown to have adverse effects on the fetus. So what you're telling me now is that myself and many others like myself are not allowed to create safe and effective medicines in the comfort of our own home? If that's not profit over people I don't know what is. Furthermore, Alcohol is the only way we can create clean shelf stable products, and you're going to take that away too? Go enforce your butane laws, I despise Butane Hash Oil! I still can't believe you allow the dispensaries to make it, it's shameful. Alcohol tinctures are not the enemy. Don't suffer your constituency, oppose this bill. You really want to force everyone into smoking flower? My father has COPD. My best friend has asthma. My mentor has cancer. My niece is an athlete. I could go on all day. How many patients will you sacrifice? Please do the right thing and stop this madness today. Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 12:03:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wakea Po	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha representative,

As a medical patient I strongly am against the proposed changes, this will absolutely negatively effect my access to safe , reliable , transparent affordable medicine.

Giving more power over patient medicine and taking away our rights to , simply benefit the owners of a select few businesses is absolutely wrong and an assault on our right to medical autonomy.

The lack of transparency and lack of naturally produced safe medicine are only some of many reasons the dispensary cannot serve my unique needs as a patient .

I strongly and absolutely am against this measure

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 12:20:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Henry Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native hawaiian farmer and I oppose this bill. This bill profits the dispensaries and we aren't addressing A realistic form of social equity for native Hawaiians

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 2:47:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mykel Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1217.



**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:45:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jan Ventura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I vehemently oppose this bill due to the language that explicitly limits my purchasing of medical cannabis through dispensaries only. Creating a monopoly for access to plant medicine is illegal and immoral.

Thank you,

Jan Ventura

808-551-5833

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:45:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sean Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL because it is not going to help local patients at all.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:13:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christophe Morin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to limiting medical cannabis grow sites to only 5 qualified patients, allowing the Department Of Health to perform searches and seizures of medical grow sites, and criminalizing everyone who produces, manufactures or dispenses medical cannabis without a dispensary license.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:31:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Simmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stron opposition! Hb1217 aims to limit patient access to much needed medicine. Medicine that they have provided by home growers for free or very low cost. I personally would no longer be able to provide free coconut infused capsules to the elderly patients I grow for. My wife and I also use these same capsules for pain relief and sleep aid. Should we be forced to spend big money at the dispensaries for something we can make for next to nothing at home? Limiting patients to 5 cards at one growsite is another big concern I have! Not all patients have land and or the physical ability to grow they're own medicine. Restricting the amount to 5 cards is to restrictive! Could we we do a canopy limit instead? This would make more sense rather than a card limit. At a time where patients rights should be protected and expanded on I cannot support hb1217 as it extremely limits patients access to free or highly discounted medicine.

Thank you for your time, Andrew Simmons

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:41:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Desroches	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Legislation to change the Grow Site Limit to 5 cards will create a Monopoly on who grows Medical Marijuana. This is wrong. Patients should be able to choose who and where there Medicine is being grown. Many people live in locations they cannot grow.. Apartments etc... those patients should not be limited to only a few growing options, none at all and have to go to the few Over Priced Dispensaries they may not be able to afford

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:26:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Burgess	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:50:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherri Wilmarth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the inspections should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients' and caregivers' rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/23.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Sherri Wilmarth

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:10:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting to voice my strong opposition to this bill. It seeks to further criminalize marijuana cultivation. I moved to HAawaii in 1976 when I was 8 years old, the same year our HPD began Green Harvest operations. I was arrested in 1995 for cultivation of my small personal Marijuana crop. My family suffered great harm due to this arrest, harm that continues to this day , almost 30 years later. Pakalolo is a plant that every HAawaii citizen and American citizen should be free to cultivate and use without regulation or persicution. These laws cause far more harm than any regulation they seek to impose. Please vote no on this HB1217. Mahalo



**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:46:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle Kettle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is in opposition to HB1217 as limiting medical marijuana grows to a number of cards or plant count is only going to hurt patient access to quality medicine. Please do not allow this bill to pass it will only hurt the people of Hawaii and take away access to clean affordable medicine provided to patients through their caregivers.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:53:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
donn viviani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Donn Viviani, a Kailua resident. I oppose HB1217. For the following reasons. The focus of the legislature should be on the welfare of the people. Making sure that they receive the medicine they need in a safe and affordable way. Setting an arbitrary number of patients allowed on a grow site serves no purpose to further those aims, in fact it act in opposition to them. Rather, pass a bill with requirements for the safe growing and distribution, that would be both useful and defensible. Selecting an arbitrary restriction is not. Mahalo

Donn Viviani

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:16:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brandi Noelani Cortez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are **NOT** available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawai'i in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation **IS** agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with **MEDICAL PATIENTS** (me) and caregivers at the registered grow sites with the goal to educate and **SUPPORT** their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the inspections should be **VOLUNTARY**, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients (me)\_ and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose **NOT** to go to dispensaries (which are very expensive for us) by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from Hawai'i Cannabis Industry Association only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own date, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients like me and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to **PROTECT PATIENTS'** and **CAREGIVERS'** rights to medical **CULTIVATION** and **ACCESS**. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/23

I am writing as a medical marijuana patient of 3 years. This medicine has voided me of taking over the counter medication, and prescription medication for trauma, insomnia, joint pain, and

migraines. This medicine is only accessible to me in certain areas which are not convenient as I age.

Give us the patients and caregivers the bodily autonomy we are asking for to use plant medicine to heal ourselves and to grow with our own hands in our land.

Mahalo Nunui for your time kēia lā

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:36:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judiah McRoberts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Opposition to this bill.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:12:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Xavier Staub	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we all know that moving forward proactively with the next phase of fully legalizing cannabis for all has to happen. this just drags feet for no reason thats beneficial to the new and rapidly growing industry while injuring the people that need it medically...gratefully..x

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:17:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony italiano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We cannot allow our care giver rights to be taken away. We cannot allow friends and family that aren't fortunate enough to have land to grow there own medicine- to not be able to grow on permitted land. It strips patients of there access to medicine. Nobody can afford the dispensary. The quality of the dispensaries are low. People need strong craft cannabis to help with symptoms. Low The low terpene cannabis does nothing for patients. We need to be allowed more access to medicine. Four oz of usable cannabis is not enough. I go through that amount in one week. Easy. We need to be allowed to grow our own, grow for our family's and friends in need who cannot or aren't able or simply don't have the time. We need to allow anyone who wants to grow cannabis in the state of hawaii to have a fair chance. No big business. Keep it local . Empower Hawaii and the people. Unite family's and friends to do co ops and enjoy medicine from the aina. Do not take away our rights. Aloha

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:08:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
adam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill HB1217 HD2 for legislation in Hawai'i, which aims to prohibit the cultivation, production, manufacture, distribution, possession, or dispensation of medical cannabis except by qualifying patients, qualifying out-of-state patients, their authorized primary caregivers, or medical cannabis dispensaries.

I believe that this bill is not in the best interests of patients who rely on medical cannabis to manage their health conditions.

Firstly, the bill seeks to restrict the number of qualifying patients who may use a grow site to five unless an exemption is obtained by the Department of Health. This provision is unreasonable and will make it difficult for patients to access medical cannabis, especially those who live in rural areas or have limited financial means. It may also result in the creation of a black market for medical cannabis, which could have negative consequences for public health and safety.

Secondly, the bill prohibits the receipt of cannabis or cannabis products as compensation for acting as a primary caregiver to a qualifying patient. This provision is particularly concerning as it could discourage caregivers from providing essential care to patients who need it. Many caregivers provide this service out of love and compassion, and it is unfair to deny them compensation for their time and effort.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider this bill for legislation in Hawaii, which would restrict access to medical cannabis for patients who need it. Instead, we should focus on creating a robust regulatory framework that ensures the safety and quality of medical cannabis products while also ensuring that patients have access to them. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:17:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cassandra winston	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the inspections should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients' and caregivers' rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/23.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:00:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lia Jacobsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawai‘i in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawai‘i Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:11:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
MJ Crandall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Creating political prisoners with bills aimed at further limiting, restricting, or otherwise criminalizing Hawai'i's \*medical\* cannabis community is simply unconscionable. Please reconsider the passage of this bill, along with any others that prioritize profit and industry over patients. Mahalo for your time.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:57:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cazares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 4:32:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Ott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to any further restrictions on the use, cultivation, and sale of cannabis.

In fact, all the regressive laws in the United States concerning marijuana illegalization are based solely on RACISM. The more the Hawai'i legislature perpetuates the myth that cannabis is a dangerous drug requiring intense legislation, the more you perpetuate racism and the new Jim Crow in this country. If you are ignorant of the history, start learning here: <https://www.aclu.org/other/drug-war-new-jim-crow>

In Hawai'i, our representatives should know better than to blindly succumb to the whims of U.S. politics. Queen Liliuokalani was ignored by the U.S. government who, never recognizing the value of hanai families, claimed she wasn't the official queen because she wasn't a blood descendant of the previous king, and the Hawaiian nation was obliterated.

You need to do what's best for Hawai'i, and HB 1217 is NOT A GOOD IDEA.

The more you restrict cannabis use in Hawai'i, the more you do a disservice to all the people of Hawai'i. Please stop the nonsense. Shut this bill down immediately. Spend your time instead on legalizing marijuana, regulating productions, and tax it -- just like alcohol which is a very dangerous drug. The National Institute of Health estimates that that more than 140,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually. See: <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohols-effects-health/alcohol-topics/alcohol-facts-and-statistics/alcohol-related-emergencies-and-deaths-united-states>

I want you to MAKE CANNABIS LEGAL; regulate production and sale like any food, alcohol, or tobacco; and TAX it. If you don't think that will help Hawaii's state treasury increase, you are foolish.

Say NO to HB 1217.

Mahao,

Vanessa Ott



**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:02:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Talimalo Vaivai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Limiting patient cards to a site is a "band aid" approach to an already failed program. Allowing dispensaries to create a monopoly on the market for medicine is wrong.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:57:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a patient, caregiver, and former dispensary employed cultivator, I am in strong opposition to any bill that attempts to limit a patient's access to medical cannabis products by designating the currently licensed dispensaries as the only legitimate point of sale for these products, and in doing so, criminalizes the legacy cultivators and the patient networks that they have been serving.

Hawaii has had a medical cannabis program since 2000 and didn't see its first licensed dispensary open until 2017! Who provided the patients of Hawaii with their meds for those 17 years? The independent growers and caregivers of Hawaii! To many people including myself, bills like these, written and lobbied for by those invested in the success of the dispensary system, clearly aim to shut out anyone but themselves from the cannabis market, whether it be adult use or medical. This is clearly all about money and the level of short sightedness being displayed by state legislators, and greed by dispensary license holders and associates, is simply unacceptable. Alleged concern for public health and safety is obviously just a convenient facade to try to pass these bills under.

As a former cultivator for one of the dispensaries, it's very apparent to me that there is no way for the dispensaries alone to effectively serve the patients of Hawaii. Who are the dispensaries to try and dictate to patients what products they have access to? Why would a patient ever leave their caregiver/co-op for a limited selection of assuredly more expensive and possibly inferior product? They wouldn't, plain and simple. It's so obvious that bills like this are an attempt by the dispensaries to end the relationships and dismantle the networks formed over many years between the caregivers and patients of Hawaii, thus forwarding their agendas and leaving the dispensaries as the only legal option for patients to obtain their meds through. That's just WRONG and that is definitely NOT progress.

For the record, I'm not anti-dispensary; they do have their role in the scheme of things. It doesn't have to be legacy vs. dispensary. We absolutely can work together to build a thriving, more diversified cannabis economy in Hawaii, that best serves the interests of patients, caregivers, and retailers; but HB1217 is essentially the opposite of that.

**I SAY NO TO HBI217 AND ALL SIMILAR BILLS!**



**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:14:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua Siefman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation will negatively affect the people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:47:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hanna G	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. People should be able to make and distribute cannabis products as well as grow more plants on their property. Limiting licenses doesn't do anything but hurt the people.

The dispensaries have already lied to us enough and their products usually taste terrible and who knows what's in them. I'd rather get edibles from someone I trust and that actually work and taste good versus going to any dispensary. The dispensaries are a total rip off and the quality is shameful.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:55:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathan Lampe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a medical cannabis consumer. I think it's disgusting that the folks in charge here are taking bribes from companies like Monsanto and Juul vaping and at the same time talking about they took proactive measures to change laws to keep Hawaii vape pens clean. Absolute lies. Data shows cartridges from the over priced dispensaries failed for metals and were made in China. What are we even arguing about here. Cannabis is a plant!!!! It grows naturally. A medicine given by The Lord!!! I understand taxes need to be involved like everything in life. But jeez why does the man on top always need to win. Why can't the small farmer win for once????!! Boot corporate cannabis out of here. Boot people who don't even use the medicine out of these hearings!! Why does it have to be so hard? When it can be so easy. Why is the court case all frowns when it should be nothing but smiles and aloha. The dispensaries here on Maui are filled with over priced materials. Not grown with love! Tell the youth the truth. Free cannabis from these shackles. More cannabis less alcohol!!!! Let's get real here. I need cannabis to get through my daily. And I stay productive working 7 days a week. 10 hours a day. No can do tht on booze. Cannabis a complete healer for the people. Let cannabis be heard. Let cannabis be freed. Tell the youth the truth.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 8:02:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael karlovich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose limiting patient cards to grow sites, the people should have the right to grow equally as much as others and be able to manufacture products from medicine. mahalo.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 9:51:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keawe'iwi Pilayo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

My name is Keawe'iwi Pilayo and I am 22 years old and I suffer every day with excruciating and often times debilitating, head, neck, back, etc. pain due to post-concussive syndrome, permanent brain damage and a pretty terrible car accident. I think that it's not very fair to continue to steal from local people and give rights and wealth to only foreign business interests when people should be able to have access to their own medicine. With the language used for card limits and unlimited power in the law for searches, it is not only unfair to locals and normal people but it also perpetuates a sense of illegality and makes me feel as if I am doing something wrong, when I am trying to just have less pain and a more bearable life experience. Please consider the people and do not play into the gross politics of helping foreign business entities instead of the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa,

Keawe'iwi Pilayo

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:15:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Carroll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of HB 1217 relating to medical cannabis. Land is too expensive and limited to allow only 5 patients per farm. This bill will limit access to medicine for people in rural areas who depend on medical co ops. Please support patients not the big dispensaries. thank you

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:40:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lyn Worley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawai'i in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

This legislation was created to negatively affect REAL people in our community who choose not to go to dispensaries by creating more barriers to access. According to a report from the Hawai'i Cannabis Industry Association, only 26.5% of our newly registered medical patients go to dispensaries. (Gonce, Cheng, Jarvis, Brewbaker, 2022) According to their own data, this means that over 75% of patients are getting cannabis from other sources. This legislation would create regulations that could potentially criminalize most of our local 329 patients and caregivers.

Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

Mahalo for advocating Compassion & **ALOHA**.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:27:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rusty Tapp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider the implications of taking manufactured non-pulmonary options off the table for 75% of Hawai'i's medical patients. Right now it would cost you \$34 plus tax to purchase a pack of 8 "gummies" with less than 100mg of THC present in the entire package. For the sake of easy math let's just assume the average patients needs 2 gummies a day or 20mg THC (even though it is likely more). Do you really think it is sustainable to ask a patient to spend \$255 plus tax every month for 20mg of medicine a day?

If \$255 can buy you an ounce from that same dispensary, you can assume that the dispensary msrp is inflated to at least twice the cost of production. This means it would cost the average home grower \$127.50 to cultivate the 8,400 mg THC found in an ounce of premium flower (please note the cost to homegrower is grossly over estimated since the average homegrower has minimal overhead i.e. no testing, no insurance, no employees and the average homegrower uses sustainable farm practice on production of cannabis i.e. soil and sun grown with natural farm inputs)

dispensary manufactured edibles are at least 30x more expensive than those made at home. The cost of purchasing manufactured products from the monopoly is unsustainable and unattainable for 75%.

Also, alcohol tincture is our only way of ensuring we have shelf stable medicine free of contamination. Why would we ban safe and effective medicine? It is a blatant attempt to help the monopoly recoup money lost during what was globally known as the "green rush".

Please oppose HB1217

thank you



**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:15:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eric Rivera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Eric Rivera and is in strong opposition

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:53:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Topher Jacob	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1217. This bill limits the number of qualified medical patients and caregivers per registered grow site to only five (5). This limit does not provide the sufficient amount of flowering plants required to have consistent harvests due to the biological and physiological nature of the cannabis plant, and the fact that it has three distinct phases in the growth cycle. This limit does not take into account agricultural areas where farming and plant cultivation should occur, and rural neighbor islands where patients and caregivers cultivate their own medicine and dispensaries are not available. Agriculture should especially be encouraged by the State of Hawaii in these locations, and medical cannabis cultivation IS agriculture.

This bill also gives the Department of Health the authority to do searches at residences to ensure compliance, and creates a criminal pathway for people who produce, manufacture, or dispense cannabis without a dispensary license. The DOH should provide a pathway to build positive relationships with medical patients and caregivers at registered grow sites, with the goal to educate and support their efforts to remain in compliance with HRS-329. All of the checks should be voluntary, and the DOH should be required to contact the patients and caregivers associated with each registered grow site prior to a scheduled visitation.

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Please consider adding language to protect patients and caregivers rights to medical cannabis cultivation and access. Under current law the caregiver program sunsets on 12/31/24.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:51:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristin Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vote in opposition to this bill. I am specifically in opposition to Section 7b new language of "no person shall produce...without a dispensary license." This is ridiculous. If I grow my own flower, but prefer to take it as an edible (or other), why should I need a dispensary license? This is highly insulting, unnecessary and incredibly costly. Furthermore, legislators: it would behoove you to speak to all members of the cannabis community when drafting these bills, not just those who give you campaign contributions. Represent the actual people.

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:53:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Lopez IV	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose the Dispensaries and the DOH being the only ones benefitting from this. Not even taking patient's income [fixed] in to consideration. We are the the purpose, not the problem. Patients over Profit not thw other way around. God bless!

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 12:25:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Tamosiunas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I firmly oppose HB1217 because "Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health and Cure Oahu."

Only one dispensary approved this out of eight!

"Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Kauai Farm Planning, Care Waialua, GreenWave Consulting, Hawaii Cannabis Union, Hawaii Cannabis Hui, Cannabis Society of Hawai'i, 329islandtours, and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from Akamai Cannabis Consulting and two individuals". There are far more in opposition of this bill than those who support it, yet Mr. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, Chair has recommended that it pass Third Reading. It seems to be that the Committee Members have failed reading comprehension. The Hawaii 329 card holders believe this bil is an unjust act, yet the Committee is listening to Cure Oahu, the only dispensary that supports this bill. Are you aware that Cure Oahu has a former Honolulu Police Officer, in legal trouble for the cultivation of cannabis while he was an Officer and now works for a medical dispensary? Due to the shear number of people in opposition of this bill and my own personal beliefs, I must firmly oppose this bill and hope the Committee do the same by listening to the people you represent and not Mr. Yamashita where there seems to be a conflict of interest in the letter of recommendation that he has written to the Committee. I oppose HB1217 along with the "numerous individuals" that oppose too.

Mahalo for your time.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-1217-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:48:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James koizumi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition