

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2443_HD1
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 02-27-24, 12:00 PM

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

2 **Department Position:** SUPPORT

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

9 It is important to note that 96% of grow sites have 5 or fewer patients. Therefore, the 5-patient
10 limit will affect only 4% of patients. Of grow sites with 6 or more patients, the average number
11 is 9 patients per grow site. Since each patient is allowed to grow up to 10 plants, the 5-patient
12 limit will limit the total number of plants at a grow site to no more than 50 plants. DOH
13 respectfully urges the legislature to maintain the 5-card limit per grow site.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:15:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
parsha l oliva	Wailua Care	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a cancer survivor and an avid user of marijuana. I am 70 years old on a fixed income. I have lived here all my life and have witnessed the unfairness of political tensions,

Its exhausting for the people of Hawaii to manuver the financial struggles for money and power in our islands. Im asking that you give something back to the people to assist in the financial struggle we face.

Wailua Care offers support to many of us who are disable or sickly by providing an affordable means of medication.

Legalize marijuana so the profits of the dispensaries are realized and political promises are met. Both sides can exist. You sell the spirit and people of Hawaii and yet we are the first to be trampled on and sacrificed. Fasi did it...and his tokens to the people still exist.

HELP US HELP OURSELVES....

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:02:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsey Tollison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2443

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:50:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
adam	434 Custom Tattooing	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

24.02.25

In Opposition of HB 2443 HD1 - Relating to Medical Cannabis

Aloha kākou,

I am a local business owner and a medical marijuana card holder here on O‘ahu and I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2443 - Relating to Medical Cannabis.

I am a strong advocate for the rights of medical marijuana patients and growers in Hawai‘i. I believe that these individuals deserve to have access to safe and legal medicine in the form of medical marijuana and that the rights to legally grow medication and provide more options to patients should be protected.

The way the bill is written to cap “no more than five qualifying patients” is extremely limiting. I am concerned that this could have negative impact on the patients who need this medicine to be able to safely have more options to access the medicine and that could have a variety of consequences for patients.

Medical marijuana has been shown to be effective in treating a variety of medical conditions, including chronic pain, nausea, seizures, and more. It is a safe and effective alternative to many prescription drugs, and it can provide relief to patients who have not found other treatments to be effective.

Removing the cap will help to ensure that patients have more options to access the specific strains of cannabis that they need, which can impact their lives the most.

If you wish to create a positive impact and add more value to medical marijuana services for the people of our community, I would urge you to:

- Support legislation to increase the number of medical marijuana dispensaries in the state.
- Work to reduce the costs of medical marijuana.
- Streamline the process for patients to obtain medical marijuana cards.
- Oppose any legislation that would prohibit the cultivation of cannabis and reduce the rights of medical marijuana patients and growers.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Adam Siehr

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:55:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith wood	Care wiailua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:33:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Empress Modupe Olufunmi Jacobs	Ganja War Veterans of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the Ganja War Veterans, survivors and victims of Green Harvest. Strongly oppose HB 2443

The Ganja War Veterans are in total opposition to the further criminalization of BIPOC people inherent in these proposed laws currently before the House and Senate.

When House Members unquestionably support proposed legislation, without reading them, they are contributing further in making criminals out of the members of marginalized communities in Hawai'i. "Black Markets " cannot exist without the knowledge and collusion of all levels of government. Stop the fear mongering rhetoric, indicated in the language of this proposed legislation HB2443.

We are urging House Members, especially our Representative from Puna, Gregor Ilagan to oppose this bill. Further, we are asking House Members to reach out to the criminalized, disparaged and marginalized communities in Hawai'i. Such as the Ganja War Veterans of Hawai'i. There needs to be a more inclusive participation of BIPOC communities and individuals, in the drafting of these cannabis legislation. There must also be criminal justice reforms along with cannabis legislation.

Members of the legislative body are urged to educate themselves on the cultural, historical, political and social history of the plant cannabis, prior to its criminalization by state and federal governments. Research more on the impact Green Harvest has and continues to have on the lives of families criminalized by those cannabis laws. House members must consider the rights of medical patients, adult consumers, cultural and spiritual practitioners, craft farmers, and craft producers of cannabis products, before signing off on bills such as HB2443. Which violates all the Rights afforded in the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As well as the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While protecting the interests of the Corporate Dispensaries.

Finally the Ganja War Veterans of Hawai'i, would urge all House Members to consider proposing legislation that would take accountability for the damage caused by Green Harvest on families and communities in Hawai'i. By including in these proposed laws, measures that address Reparatory and Restorative Justice for the survivors and victims of the War on Drugs.

Mahalo

Empress Modupe Olufunmi Jacobs on behalf of

The Ganja War Veterans of Hawai'i

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

Fr: TY Cheng, President, Aloha Green Apothecary

Re: Testimony **with Comments** of **House Bill (HB) 2443 HD1**

RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS.

Repeals the sunset date of the authorization for primary caregivers to cultivate medical cannabis for qualifying patients. Clarifies that primary caregivers may continue to cultivate medical cannabis for qualifying patients subject to certain restrictions. (HD1)

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

Aloha Green Apothecary is one of the state-licensed medical cannabis dispensaries operating in Honolulu. Aloha Green Apothecary **provides Comments on HB2443 HD1** as this bill may create additional loopholes for illicit cannabis cultivation and negatively affect the medical cannabis program.

Aloha Green Apothecary supports the personal cultivation (home grow) of cannabis. Dispensaries endeavor to provide patients with suitable and affordable medicine but are affected by market forces. Therefore, patients should have the right to grow cannabis that suits their individual needs.

Prices are no longer a factor now that some dispensaries have reached economies of scale. Dispensary prices are down 50% in the past 3 years and down over 66% since dispensaries opened 8 years ago. Aloha Green Apothecary operates 4 retail stores on Oahu which have dried cannabis flower prices as low as \$149 per ounce and \$20 for 0.5g oil cartridges, inclusive of GET tax. These prices are equal to average illicit market prices on Oahu and even lower than so-called patient collective "rent" prices (see attached Appendix for price comparison).

Initially, the caregiver growing provision was included to provide the opportunity for a responsible adult assisting a child, the elderly, or the sick to grow cannabis on the patient's behalf who could not physically grow for themselves. We submit it was not the intention of the caregiver provision to help patients who are just poor gardeners.

The caregiver provision has created uncertainty in the medical cannabis program and has provided loopholes for potential illicit activity. HB2443 provides an opportunity to allow caregivers to continue growing on behalf of patients and for the State to establish rules to protect bona fide caregivers. HB2443 lacks guidance as to whether standards should be established.

We ask the committee to consider adding language to this bill to require regulators to establish reasonable regulations and rules around caregiver patient grows to ensure patient safety, public safety, and product safety. In fact, the recent Attorney's General

bill provides guidance for a medical cannabis cooperative which clearly sets out operating standards (see Appendix 2). The arbitrary limit of 5 patients per caregiver per location does not address the real issue that regulators have no authority or standards for caregiver grows. Caregivers are not dispensaries and should not be regulated as such, but a minimum standard must be established to minimize the temptation for illicit activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

TY Cheng

Appendix 1 – Recent Aloha Green Apothecary specials vs Caregiver Menu

20% Off
Pineapple Breeze Flower



2 for \$40
Wedding Cake + Choclope Liquid Oil Aloha Carts



2/23 - 2/29
All Week. At All Locations!



\$18 6-pack
Fruit Punch Tiny Bubbles



3 for \$45
All Crumble



\$149 oz.*
Choclope Flower

\$199 oz.*
The Yeti Flower
(*28g Size only)

\$75 Eighth Trio
Choclope, Skywalker Kush & G.I. Jade Flower
(3.5g of Each)



Choclope Flower



Check for daily sales & news:

 [alohagreenhi](#)

 [www.agapoth.com](#)

 [alohagreenapothecary](#)

No rainchecks. While supplies last. May not be combined with any other discounts or loyalty.



Appendix 2 – Expert from AG’s Bill SB3335 SD1 (Proposed)

§A-117 Medical cannabis cooperative; license required.

(a) A medical cannabis cooperative license shall authorize the cultivation, possession, and processing of cannabis for medical use only on the licensed premises, and limited dispensing of medical cannabis only by and between the members of the medical cannabis cooperative.

(b) A medical cannabis cooperative shall be comprised of up to five qualifying patients. A medical cannabis cooperative member shall be a natural person and shall not be a of more than one medical cannabis cooperative. A qualifying out-of-state patient shall not be a member of a medical cannabis cooperative.

(c) A medical cannabis cooperative shall not acquire, cultivate, possess, or process cannabis for medical use that exceeds the quantities allowed for each of its members combined.

(d) A medical cannabis cooperative shall not dispense any cannabis for medical use to any of its members that exceeds the quantities allowed for that member.

(e) Each medical cannabis cooperative member shall designate the licensed premises as their grow site and shall not cultivate cannabis on any other premises.

(f) No medical cannabis cooperative shall operate on the same premises as any other licensed business, including another medical cannabis cooperative.

(g) No medical cannabis cooperative member shall have a direct or indirect financial or controlling interest in any other licensed business authorized by this chapter or rules adopted thereunder, including another medical cannabis cooperative.

(h) No medical cannabis cooperative shall have a direct or indirect interest, including by stock ownership, interlocking directors, mortgage or lien, personal or real property, or any other means, in any other licensed business authorized by this chapter or rules adopted thereunder, including another medical cannabis cooperative.

(i) No other licensed business authorized by this chapter or rules adopted thereunder shall have a direct or indirect interest, including by stock ownership, interlocking directors, mortgage or lien, personal or real property, or any other means, in any medical cannabis cooperative.

(j) The board shall adopt rules related to medical cannabis cooperatives, including the size and scope of medical cannabis cooperatives and other measures designed to incentivize the use and licensure of medical cannabis cooperatives.



Akamai Cannabis Consulting

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
Honolulu, HI 96816

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2443 HD1
RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS**

By
Clifton Otto, MD

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 12:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 308 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to provide COMMENTS on this measure.

This bill appears to be helping patients because it would remove the existing sunset on the ability of patients to have a primary caregiver, meaning someone who could cultivate cannabis or go shopping at a dispensary for only one patient.

However, this bill would also retain and hasten the restriction on how many patients can cultivate together at one grow site, which is at odds with the needs of patients.

Patients need to have control over what goes into their cannabis, which for many patients means having access to outdoor organically grown cannabis that can be produced at an affordable cost.

Because of the difficulty with cultivating in residential neighborhoods, patients need to grow collectively in larger numbers on agricultural land.

However, such cultivation must be regulated by rules that include regular grow site inspections by the department, but these inspections should be voluntary and without law enforcement, which is the only way for the department to develop a working relationship with patient growers. The goal should be to encourage compliance and steer patients away from engaging in manufacturing and commercial operations.

The difficulty of cultivating cannabis in general also necessitates that primary caregivers be allowed to cultivate for at least five patients.

Please make the following amendments to grow site size and number of patients per primary caregiver to provide these necessary changes:

SECTION 2. Section 329-130, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§329-130 Authorized sources of medical cannabis. (a) [~~After December 31, 2024, a~~] A qualifying patient shall obtain medical cannabis or manufactured cannabis products only:

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

(2) By cultivating cannabis in an amount that does not exceed an adequate supply for the qualifying patient, pursuant to section 329-122; provided that each location used to cultivate cannabis shall be used by no more than five qualifying patients; provided further that patient grow sites with more than five patients shall be allowed on land zoned for agricultural use; and provided further that the department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to conduct routine voluntary grow site inspections without law enforcement [~~or~~]; or

(3) From the qualifying patient's primary caregiver who cultivates cannabis in an amount that does not exceed an

adequate supply for the qualifying patient pursuant to section 329-122; provided that ~~[each location used to cultivate cannabis shall be used to cultivate cannabis for no more than five qualifying patients]~~ a primary caregiver shall be allowed to cultivate for no more than five qualifying patients.

~~[After December 31, 2024, no primary caregiver shall be authorized to cultivate cannabis for any qualifying patient.~~

~~(b) This section shall not apply to:~~

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

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

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

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 10:29:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Mita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away my rights as an medical patient.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[COMMITTEE ON FINANCE](#)

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

[HB 2443, HD1](#)

By Care Waialua

We Oppose this bill. We ask that the legislature please extend this bill out to the year 2028 or until such time the Department of Health (DOH) can develop laws for medical cooperatives with more than five patients. We do support continued non-law enforcement inspections by the DOH for compliance. Another suggestion would be to allow more than five cards per site on agricultural lands to assist patients in rural areas. Lots of work needs to be done in developing regulations, and in time, we believe that dispensaries and cooperatives can be on the same playing field regarding rules.

Last year, during bill HB1217, we discussed with the FIN Committee limiting medical cannabis patients per TMK. We also provided verbal and written testimony of its effects on patients who depend on Care Waialua and other cooperatives to provide a place for caregivers and patients to grow their medicine. Care Waialua has been operating for over five years and has helped thousands of patients. Care Waialua is made up of kapuna, veterans, and many disabled people. We once again are asking for your help to uphold the medical cannabis laws that allow a patient to make their own choice on where they want to grow or obtain their medicine. Limiting the number of patients on a site only hurts the patients who must use that grow the site to get their medicine. There was much discussion on this bill last year in the FIN committee, but the bill died without resolution. Representative Ward made a valid comment. "We have a turf war on our hands, and we have our hand on the button". Please allow the cooperative business model to exist, and do not allow dispensaries to be the only business model in town.

The current card limits and exemption of caregivers were written by the dispensaries, lobbied by dispensaries, and introduced by Senator English in 2017, which was signed into law soon after the establishment of dispensaries. This law is not the voice of the patients, it is the voice of the eight licensed dispensaries across Hawaii. Dispensaries have gone all the way to provide written and verbal testimony that cooperatives with more than 5 cards are supplying the black market. This is a false statement. On the contrary, the black market has grown because patients who do not belong to collectives cannot afford dispensaries, resulting in patients being forced into the black market. Cooperatives keep people out of the black market, provide a place of safety, and should be supported.

Although the numbers are not precise on how many patients visit dispensaries, we know that many people choose not to visit dispensaries because they don't have the strain they want to grow, and it's unaffordable. Patients also don't trust someone else growing their medicine and would prefer to be involved in the process. Cooperatives, like Care Waialua, do not operate like dispensaries. Patients interact with the plants and people behind the scenes, connecting them to their medicine. The patients know their medicine is safe. They help grow it. These factors are why many people choose collectives. This collective, farm-gardening style, provides patients with the resources on the farm to grow their own

medicine and select their strain and type of medicine for their medical conditions. The cooperative model works and has been around since the passing of the medical bill in 2000.

Care Waialua has worked hard to be transparent with the DOH, provided data, and even wrote a bill this year through the Legislative Referral Branch. "The Hawaii Medical Cannabis Act of 2024", SB 2619, is a thorough regulatory bill for the medical programs regulating cooperatives. Unfortunately, the dual-use bill has taken the front seat, and we oppose this bill. The medical program would be a well-served place to develop industry regulations before going into legalization and would provide low start-up costs for the medical cultivators of Hawaii. We have welcomed DOTAX tax enforcement on our site and have had many legislators, including Governor Josh Green, visit our site to understand how cooperatives work. My major complaint is that DOH has remained silent and has made no effort to help cooperatives. Instead, the DOH ignores all of our work and supports limiting five cards.

I do want to end discussing the federal raid on our farm. I think it's important for legislators to know that nobody is protected from federal intervention in cannabis, including dispensaries. We want to share the facts with the committee. On October 25, 2022, Homeland Security and State Law Enforcement (NED). Seventy people, in total, confiscated all cannabis and products from 980 patients listed on our site. Each person was connected to our site by registering the grow site on their 329 cards and an internal land lease. We had been operating in full transparency for over six years, and we were in disbelief that this could happen. As of Feb,25,2023, there have been no charges or arrests. On October 30, 2025, Care Waialua reopened its doors for our patients to continue growing. On October 26, 2023, Michele Nakata (DOH) sent out a letter to all our patients (Figure 1. below) warning them that we were under investigation and that the DOH would cover their fee to change their site. I was in disbelief at this letter because, at a minimum, I thought we would be supported. We had never had a noncompliance letter issued to Care Waialua or a member complaint lodged with the DOH. This letter caused a lot of panic among patients, and hundreds of people contacted DOH, expressing their frustration and stress from this email. The patients already knew we had been raided and requested we open the farm back up and continue growing. We were following the state laws. The Department of Justice has made it clear to federal agencies that federal dollars will not be used to enforce state cannabis compliance. Homeland Security has ignored these laws.

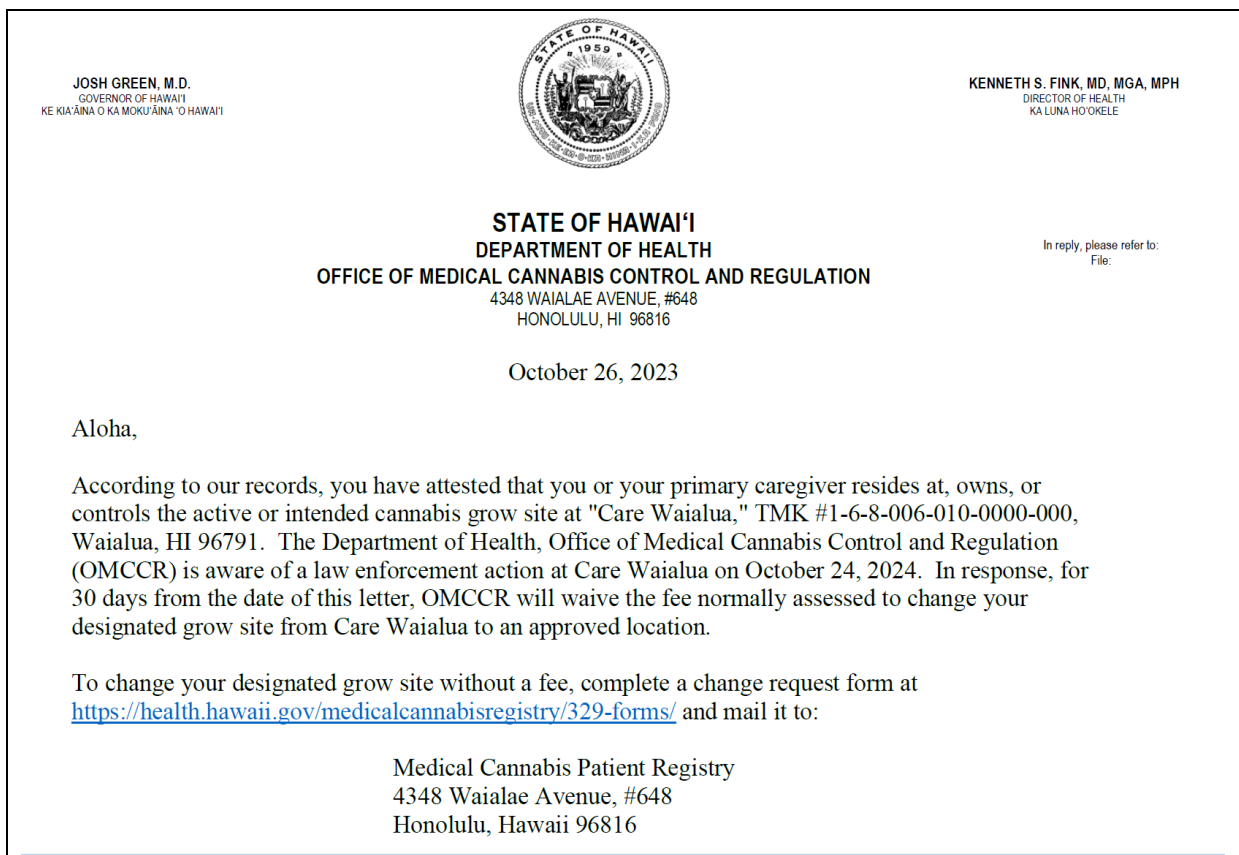
Care Waialua continues to support the medical cannabis people who genuinely need this program and provides a community resource for thousands of people. If called upon, we will continue to provide supportive testimony and letters of recommendation to the legislature. Please help the people of Hawaii who genuinely need this medicinal cannabis plant to live a healthy life.

Mahalo.

Jason Hanley, Care Waialua (Owner)

Oahu Cannabis Farm Alliance, President. <https://www.oahucfa.org/>

Figure 1. DOH Letter to Care Waialua patients.



RE: HB2443 HD1; Hearing Tuesday February 27, 2024

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to testify for HB2443 HD1.

The Cannabis Society of Hawai'i would like to provide comments on this bill.

Caregivers play an important role and especially in Hawai'i, ohana style.

If the sunset clause is not repealed it would criminalize the already disadvantaged patient creating further hardships on the path to wellness.

Any further restrictions on medical card licenses to a TMK will also criminalize the already disadvantaged patient unless equal or greater access to medicine is available.

We do not support or agree with taking away any rights of caregivers or patients and in doing so would hurt the Community.

Reducing the licenses to 5 per address would cause hardships on patients who rely on the infrastructure and ability to access medicine that is not being addressed under current guidelines and restrictions.

Plant count also needs to be further understood as breeders, growers, farmers, cultivate genetics that require male plants and or pollen that do not produce THC and should not be counted within the plant count. Furthermore, for stronger genetics and selective breeding a breeder may not take a plant past vegetative state into the flower cycle and may kill off said plants for any number of reasons. For this specific reason, size of the canopy has been more effective in managing the size of the grow.

Without the CLAIM ACT that would allow insurance to help offset costs of the medical cannabis license visit, application fee and medicine, patients rely on caregiver models that allow special consideration to products offered by strain, cultivar, etc. and this bill would create a unnecessary hardship by not allowing patients to work with caregivers to reduce costs and have access to medicine that may not be found in traditional offerings.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to go over our testimony in detail.

Thank you,

Cannabis Society of Hawai'i // cannabissocietyofhawaii@gmail.com

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 9:28:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It is good policy that is in keeping with other states .

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:02:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brit Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because this limits the ability of local farms to grow cannabis for cardholders.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:09:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dakotah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:26:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shayne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since 2017 until now, we, the residents of the big island, have been deceived by false information stating that the law allows only 5 per lot. However, this discriminatory practice unfairly affects legitimate individuals who are in need of medical assistance. This situation is far from ideal and needs to be addressed.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:49:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Asuncion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! The dispensaries are liars. Their flower is outrageously expensive! We're better off getting our medicine off the streets.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:26:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!!

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:27:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Voss	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill wholeheartedly. Please help the medical marijuana patients of Hawai. Ty.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:43:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christine Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern at the Hawaii State Legislature,

I beleive this bill shall be considered due to the fact that this farm is saving lives! Let me explain: The most common medical reasons for marijuana use were anxiety (49%), insomnia (47%), chronic pain (42%), and depression (39%). The most common forms of use for all medical conditions were smoking and edibles, followed by vaping, concentrate, and topical. We found women were more likely to use marijuana for posttraumatic stress disorder, sleep, anxiety, and migraines. Among those using marijuana for medical purposes, 21% did not have a doctor. Among those with doctors, 33% did not inform them, 28% reported their doctor was neutral on their use, 32% reported their doctor was supportive, and 8% reported their doctor was not supportive. Once again if a patient has these health problems they are likely to seek a more natural relief compaired to dangerous chemicals from medications prescribed by doctors, which may inturn cause other health issues.

- Lowering blood pressure. ...
- Reducing inflammation. ...
- Preventing relapse in drug and alcohol addiction. ...
- Treating anxiety disorders. ...
- Treating gastrointestinal (GI) disorders. ...
- Preventing seizures. ...
- Fighting cancer and so much more!

The point I am making is that this farm has helped and want to continue to help those who are in need of a natural herb that can help them. Three popular arguments in favor of legalizing adult cannabis use are: that **its adverse health effects are modest compared with those of other illicit and illicit drugs**; that criminal penalties for cannabis use harm users and the community; and that legalization enables cannabis to be better regulated and taxed. Please consider passing this bill. Thank you

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 3:11:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Gale Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband completely controls his severe chronic pain with medical cannabis after weaning off his 10 year dependence of Oxicontin. Until he discovered Care Wailua, we literally had to choose between food, and his medicine because of the inflated costs at the dispensary. Being able to grow his medicine at the farm has literally cut his medication costs in half! Please support the patients and local residents. Oppose this bill.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 3:52:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Lessin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of hb2443

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 3:59:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Lessin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of sb2443

Leslie Lessin

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 4:20:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawnnell Alonso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Shawnnell Alonso do not support this bill. I support small local businesses that are for people of Hawaii. Wailua care farm is where a lot of us locals go and receive medicine. We trust and know it's safe and always treated with respect. Jason is helping us locals get our medicine at a more reasonable price. Living in Hawaii it's hard as it is to survive, we need places like Wailua Care. Mahalo

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 5:57:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael karlovich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must not restrict the medical cannabis caretakers further, patients depend on them to provide safe and affordable cannabis.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 6:50:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Mills	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 8:27:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BRIAN PALMIERI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's natural growing plant that helps people improve their health conditions. If anything alcohol should be illegal. We have more crime and domestic violence with people with alcohol related causes than we do marijuana. Marijuana makes you calm helps relieve stress and also helps with pain. So let's make it legal period. I personally have a text from the DOH not gonna say any names but they told me we are currently at our max for dispensaries on the island but if I want to with 10 million dollars that can make my own business a vertical operation. It seems to me that it's all about the money the state wants. And all I want to do is open a nursery to sell plants in vegative state to people who want to grow on their own.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 9:45:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AC	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It will put a strain on getting the medicine I need.

Please oppose HB2443 immediately

AC

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 9:58:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Brooks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:30:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Lopez IV	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern.

My name is Frank Lopez, and I have been a medical cannabis patient in Hawaii and numerous states since 2016. I have been a 329 card holder in Hawaii since 2019. Ever since I first registered as a medical cannabis patient in this state, I have been a patient, participant, volunteer and student of Care Waialua. In a nutshell, they saved my life. By providing me with the medication I needed for numerous ailments and conditions in other than the scarcely unsatisfactory products the state authorized dispensaries attempt to provide. On top of having alternate forms and strength of medication, at one point or another, I was provided with free or way below cost medication to control certain life threatening medical conditions. They're name says it all, Care Waialua really cares about their patients and their individual needs,. I was also given the opportunity to learn , assist, and cultivate my own (state designated labeled) cannabis plants. Something I was not able to do anywhere else I have lived due to several reasons such as being in Veteran housing program and normal rental agreements. Care Wailua has been a beacon of hope for not only myself, but for my family, my fellow veterans, and other medical cannabis patients as well. Aloha and thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 2:45:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Nasario	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not educated about how to grow "Medical grade Cannabis". The co-ops teach us how to grow our own medicine. The dispensaries are just too expensive & I have to endure the pain without medicine if forced to buy cannabis from the dispensaries.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:46:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BELINDA GILLESPIE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill would limit the number of patients allowed per site. Please allow the patients to decide where they want to seek help and care for their medical condition(s).

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:31:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Rich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose HB2443

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:44:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darius Jefferson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill as many of us rely on our medicine just to get by. So no take the rights away from the people!!!

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:01:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Poag	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect our collective farm. Limiting 5 cards will leave hundreds of patients without medical cannabis. We cannot participate in the dispensary's program. Mahalo

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:04:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keawe'iwi Pilayo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not think that it is smart to effect a law that would harm the citizens that it is regarding. Many people need medical cannabis to go through their daily lives, including myself. Many people cannot afford to get their medicine from the dispensaries, including myself. These dispensary owners, seek only to fill their pockets with money holding no care to the well-being of that person seeking their necessary medicine.

Due to the illegal status cannabis in years past, knowledge of growing and producing this plant is not very common. This limits the amount of people who can grow usable amounts of medical cannabis to provide to patients. While considering this, many people also do not have the skills required to maintain and grow healthy plants in general, much less effectively care for and yield their own medicine; which also assumes they have the means to a growing set up as well.

Of these people who require medicine that can not afford their medicine at dispensaries and have neither knowledge nor means to grow it seem to be placed in a difficult situation. Contraction of this law would only pile furthermore misfortune on those who are struggling to begin with. This bill seems to have MANY oversights when looking through the lens of those it is meant to serve. It also highlights seemingly biased legislation that caters to the elite dispensary owners, those who already have more money than my entire family may ever see.

Please remember the people of Hawai'i, those who are in need, those who you you are supposed to serve and support, and those people who make our home what it is.

Aloha nō,

Keawe'iwi

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:49:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Chambers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2443, related to medical cannabis.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 10:57:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Bohling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2443

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:22:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Oahu Resident	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that would restrict the access of qualifying patients to medical cannabis by eliminating the option of having a primary caregiver cultivate cannabis for them after December 31, 2024. I am a resident of Hawai‘i and a supporter of the medical cannabis program, which has helped many patients with debilitating medical conditions improve their quality of life. Many of these patients rely on their primary caregivers to grow an adequate supply of cannabis for them. This allows them to have a safe, consistent, and affordable source of medicine that meets their specific needs and preferences.

The proposed legislation would have severe negative consequences for these patients and for the medical cannabis program as a whole. It would force these patients to either purchase medical cannabis from a licensed dispensary or grow their own cannabis. Neither of these options is feasible or desirable for many patients.

First, purchasing medical cannabis from a dispensary is very expensive and often inconvenient. The prices of medical cannabis products are much higher than the cost of growing cannabis through a caretaker, and they are not covered by any insurance or subsidy. Moreover, some patients live far away from the nearest dispensary or do not have reliable transportation. They would have to spend a lot of time and money to travel to the dispensary and buy their medicine, which would add to their stress and discomfort.

Second, growing their own cannabis is not an option for many patients because they do not have the skills, knowledge, or resources to do so. They do not have a green thumb and they do not know how to properly care for cannabis plants. They also do not have enough space or privacy in their homes to set up a secure and compliant cultivation area. Their primary caregivers, on the other hand, have been growing cannabis for a long time and know how to produce high-quality

and effective cannabis that suits their medical needs. They also take care of all the legal and logistical aspects of cultivation, such as obtaining a registration card, complying with the plant count and location restrictions, and securing the cultivation site from theft and diversion.

The proposed legislation would also create an arbitrary and unfair limitation on the number of cards per site, which would affect many patients and caregivers who live or work on farms or other large properties. For example, Care Waialua, is a registered site that provides medical cannabis to several patients and caregivers who are part of our community. This limitation would not allow patients to have access to medical cannabis at our site or to grow our own cannabis. This would force the patients into the black market, where we would face legal risks and penalties, as well as potential violence and exploitation from unscrupulous dealers or suppliers.

If the proposed legislation passes, these patients would lose their access to medical cannabis from their primary caregivers and many would have to resort to other sources of cannabis that are unsafe, unreliable, and illegal. These sources of cannabis are not regulated or tested for quality, purity, or safety. They may contain contaminants, pesticides, mold, or other harmful substances that could endanger their health. They may also be inconsistent in their effects, causing them to experience adverse reactions or insufficient relief.

Therefore, I urge you to reject the proposed legislation and preserve the option of having a primary caregiver cultivate medical cannabis for qualifying patients. This option is vital for many patients who depend on medical cannabis for their well-being and who cannot access medical cannabis from dispensaries or grow their own cannabis. This option is also consistent with the original intent of the medical cannabis program, which is to provide compassionate and safe access to cannabis for patients with debilitating medical conditions. Please do not take away this option from the patients who need it the most.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

Aloha,

Oahu Resident

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:16:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Hayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This farm has helped me with my issues and this bill will prevent me from getting my medicine

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:28:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:55:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Don't limit the amount of card holders per co-op site. We need co-ops like Care Waialua that cares about their patients and makes it so that we're able to have medicinal marijuana that is affordable, accessible, and safe. Taking away this option would only hurt the people of Hawaii that rely on co-op sites. We don't want mainland dispensaries coming in and monopolizing the industry, making it unaffordable and unaccessible to the people in Hawaii.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:08:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quintin Wilcox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This does not allow for community cannabis farms for those whom can not growk there own cannabis. This does not help anyone get access to medication, this is just going to cause more police problems.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:13:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cazares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:14:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Pascua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I cannot afford products from the dispensaries. Care Waialua has been a such a savior with affordable and fresh products. Limiting the grow site to only 5 cards would be devastating. Dispensaries are like pharmaceutical companies...way too expensive! Without Care Waialua I would have to purchase from the unsafe streets.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:24:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Louise Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. I'm an old woman with many health issues. I'm on a fixed income and I live in an apartment. Even if I knew how and had the means I can't grow for myself. Being in a fixed income means I cannot afford to go to the dispensaries for a product that I don't know the origins of and are of lower quality. Care Wailua provides a much needed place for the kapuna who are looking for a natural remedy for our medical issues instead of flooding our bodies with chemicals. This bill will hurt the poor and elderly and will only help big Pharma and chain dispensaries. Please vote no. Thank you,

Mary Clark

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:44:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Murray mccaig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 2:39:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pernille Ottosen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose the bill that would limit grow sites to 5 patients.

Those who have proposed such a bill must not understand how complex and time and resource consuming it is to grow and process high quality medical cannabis. It requires a lot of learning and experience. You cannot just throw some seeds in a pot, add water and expect high grade medical cannabis without pests and fungi to be ready to pick a few months later

Or perhaps those who have proposed this bill stand to benefit from it financially by crushing any form of competition by maintaining the monopoly of the current cannabis dispensaries in Hawaii

Mahalo,

Pernille Ottosen MD

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:37:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Coming before you as a business owner and patient, this new proposed law will not allow the patients' of Hawaii to get affordable medicine. The medical program here has much to be desired. It is over-priced and under the 2% terpene law that is required for medicinal use of marijuana. The dispensaries don't "care" for a patients' medicine. Places that have passion for this plant, and the benefits it brings, are the ones who should be growing medicinal cannabis. I oppose HB 2443 and any other bills limiting access to patients' rights to medicine.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:55:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
anthony ettleman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HD2443 HD1.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:56:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerome Brynda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Please do not take away the caregiver system. Many people rely on their caregiver.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:18:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ismael Chambers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appose this bill as a citizen and resident of the county, state, and country.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:31:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing /changing patient rights is wrong. Both of these things need to be removed. No limit to cards, do not take away current patient rights and access to medicine and ability to grow/have their own plants, wherever they choose to grow. As for caregivers. It never made any sense, if u can care for and provide for someone who cannot or doesn't not have the ability to, then u should be able to help and caregive for whoever and however many people you can.

I really believe the state needs to take a much longer look into protecting patient rights not taking them nor caregiver rights away. The state needs to finally take the time and address this industry and make sure communities, patients and hawaii as a whole has a seat at the table. It is possible to do this right. This bill is not the right way.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:42:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephaen Delor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.! It puts us patient in a bind. Logistically and economically. Leave the medical cannabis laws alone!

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:47:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2443. Do not limit 5 patients to a grow site. We cannot let the dispensaries have control of the whole cannabis market. This bill would effectively take our local farmers out. Please, as one of many elderly kupunas, do not do this to us.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:56:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Casey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB2443. I do not want my grower to no longer be com6growing for me. The dispensaries can be pricey(even with so called lower prices, smh) and they do not always have what works for me.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:01:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gregory nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Gregory Nguyen Oppose HB2443

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:02:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grant murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to oppose this bill because I don't think it's right to limit 5 plants per card holder. There is a lot of people in the state of Hawaii that can not afford Dispensary medicine and rely on growing it them selfs or going through a joint co-op to provide them affordably medicine!!!

Thank you.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:57:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randi Freitas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for letting Us Speak,

I am a patient at care waialua and they are doing a wonderful job I have tried to grow my self and for others but it takes a lot of skills and a lot of money to do this and care waialua has made it easy for me I have seizures and live right down the road and I like that it's on a farm with other farmers out of the public eye And I agree with everyone that the law needs to change and the caregivers should be able to grow for more then 5 patients not easy for lot of us that dont know how to grow so please change this law ! Thank u Rand Freitas

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:50:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curtis Camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL. Im a A veteran who served 23 years who needs his meds. Sad to think there are others just like me going through this in life. Sickening

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:12:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Siefman	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 2443. This law will only cause more setbacks and restrictions for patients/ smaller farms/ co-ops/ family farms. The co-op farms exist to bring medicine to many patients that CANNOT afford dispensary medicine. We are not criminals and law breakers. Dispensary medicine is simply too expensive. If you look at any plant nursery in the world, there is no plant count limit. A nursery/ farm can barely operate if strict restrictions are put on the number of plants allowed... restricting plant count on co-op farms is unfair while Dispensary farms can operate without these restrictions & regulations. Once again the lawmakers and senators are so out of touch with this community of farmers, patients, and the plant itself, it's endlessly frustrating and embarrassing. Co-op farms and dispensaries can co-exist and both can thrive, without the need for the dispensaries monopolizing. The 5 card limit proposed here is a huge step backwards.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:07:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Landon Bennett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing and enforcing this is in violation of the god given constitutional right to free assembly.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:59:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Asleson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose HB2443. From the bill, "provided that each location used to cultivate cannabis shall be used to cultivate cannabis for no more than five qualifying patients." This is unnecessary, counterproductive, and generally harmful in the effort to "expand qualifying patient's access to cannabis rather than to replace existing legal access routes."

Thank you.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:07:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Donzis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2443.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:34:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose and it Seems very biased against people to get there medicine in only one way from the three dispensaries there are now it is very expensive and drives people away from buying from them

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:54:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pat Fondren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 2443

this bill takes away families ability to provide for each other .
in Hawaii we have multi family properties with many adults living under one roof . Housing is limited

6 card limit and taking away the caregiving will make it unbelievably difficult for families to take care of their medical needs within their community.
dispensary is not an option . To expensive and the practices they do result in not a good medicine . It is actually closer to poison they are selling because all the salt fertilizer and pesticides they use

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:58:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert C. Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law does not consider the well being of Hawai'i's MMJ patients. Patients need to be able to choose the collective that best suits their needs. Limiting card numbers will lead to exclusion of those desparately in need of this medicine. This is bad law, please do not have your name associated with it.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:42:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Carroll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill changing the date limiting number of patients per caregiver. Hawai'i families are large and many families have more than 5 qualified patients. I would like to continue to support my family in growing their own medical cannabis but our family has only one farm site. Please do not succumb to the demands of dispensaries and their greed. Please Support Hawai'i medical patients not corrupt dispensaries. Support people not corperations. Thank you!

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:04:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN, Cannabis Patient Advocate

RE: HB2443 HD1 Relating to Medical Cannabis – **Comments**

Hearing: February 27, 2024 at 12:00 pm in Room 308 and Videoconference

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani. I am an RN who has been a medical cannabis patient advocate for 10 of my 30 years in Hawaii. While I applaud repealing the sunset date for caregiver growers, **I am in strong opposition to the limitations of 5 cards per grow site.**

Please allow me to explain--with comments:

I served on the 2022 Hawaii Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force which made recommendations to preserve a patient’s right to grow their own medicines. Over the years, these rights have been and continue to be challenged. **HB2443 HD1 presents such a challenge** -- as it limits grow sites to 5 cards (50 plants). The likely results will be at least one thousand patients **losing access to** their medicine(s) or being threatened with the loss of their 329 cards if they continue to grow at the current sites -- with more than 5 cardholders.

Healthcare professionals strive to provide “continuity of care” and avoid disruptions of care. Patients need steady access to the right medicines, at the right time. This is true for all medicines, including cannabis. And, certain patients need certain types of cannabis.

Studies have shown that cannabis grown outdoors produces superior medicinal chemical profiles compared to plants grown indoors. Patients may have to trial many different types of cannabis to find the best chemical profiles. So, while the cannabis dispensaries strive to provide patients with what they need, they grow indoors and may not carry a steady supply of the types of cannabis that these patients need.

Patients who are not able to afford dispensary products may have to ration or go without their medicines. Some may face financial hardships if are no longer able to grow affordable medicines. Equal access to medical care is a right, not a benefit and should not depend on ability to pay. Please don't put financial barriers in the way of those least able to circumvent them.

Over the years patients have become resourceful in finding ways to keep a steady access to **affordable medicines**—by growing their own or finding someone to grow for them. Some have a caregiver while others rely upon outdoor community-garden-style, collective grow sites where they can be taught best growing practices and get help from expert growers.

If you feel that you must place these 5 cards (or other card #) limit, then please consider limiting the damage to this patient population by grandfathering in those who are currently growing on sites that manage plants for more than 5 cardholders. And, going forward, please encourage Hawaii's DOH to provide a transparent application process and pathway for groups of patients who wish to petition to grow collectively.

And, lastly, please look at the work that has already been done to address the challenges that patients who choose to grow their own face—and the proposed solutions. You can do this by reading **SB2619** which creates regulated pathways.

Thank you for considering repealing the sunset date for caregiver growers as that could help thousands of patients who rely on caregivers to grow for them.

Please DO remove the language that limits grow sites to 5 cards. The NEW limit could deprive at least one thousand patients of their ability to grow at all. It could lead to harsh punishments and recriminalization of medical cannabis patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on how to protect Hawaii's more than ten thousand medical cannabis patients who currently grow their own medicines.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Cannabis Nurse Educator

Kailua



HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:19:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michal C Cohen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition to this bill. This bill proposes to limit the number of people per grow site. I am part of a cannabis collective and this collective has brought me community and connection. Please don't take away something that benefits so many people. Building community is the remedy to mental health challenges, being in community with a shared love of this medicine brings healing in so many different ways.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:43:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LAURA A BLUE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not limit how many people a care giver can grow for. Allow small farms, like Care Waialua to continue to grow for us. Medicine at the dispensaries are twice as much as farm prices.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:13:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kernan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is bad for medical patients

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:16:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy K Kitaura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Closing Care Wailua will harm all the patients who need their medicine to help them with their lives.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:23:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Peters	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I Oppose this bill

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:46:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremiah J Ryan III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2443 because imposing a 5 card limit on farm co-op's gives dispensaries an unfair advantage.

Cannabis Medicine should be grown in soil, not salts.

Sure looks like a turf-war!!

Sincerely,

Jeremiah J. Ryan III

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:00:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jael Esther Simonson Tunick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I regret not being able to testify in person, unfortunately I have come down with a cold; in case you are unaware, stress can often cause weaknesses in the immune system, leading to a greater chance of illness. As a medical cannabis patient for almost 5 years now, it has distressed me to the point of becoming sick with a cold twice in the last month, and the doubling of my pain scales ever since the unjustified raid on Care Waialua. I wonder how any one of you would react, had someone come into your home or office, and stolen medicine crucial for your health; medicine that, without its daily usage, inhibits your ability to have a regular functional life. Imagine that for a moment--the fear, the trauma, the heartache. Losing sleep and appetite, because your pain levels are out of control, and why? Because your stress levels are through the roof.

This is the effect of an excess of cortisol in the body, and this is the effect that the passing of bill HB2443 will have, not longer on me, but on all the other patients who rely as heavily on Care Waialua. The threat of limiting grow sites to 5 cards per site is a tyrannical attempt to control the cannabis market in Hawaii; it has no basis or justification in the best interest of medical cannabis patients, which should, by and large, be the prime priority. Instead, it is clearly gauged to benefit the dispensaries, enterprises which have no place in the medical profession. Their products are not, in any way, catered to true medical patients, both in dosing and in pricing. It is a strain enough to afford my monthly medical cannabis needs, and would I have to rely solely on the dispensaries, not only would I be in financial trouble, but I would STILL be unable to manage my daily pain needs.

Do not put me and every other medical cannabis patient in serious medical and financial jeopardy; do your constituents a favor and oppose this oppressive bill. It does only harm to our community and ruins our prospects of a normal life.

Mahalo piha,

Jael Esther Kealiiwahineouilaninaopio Simonson Tunick

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:32:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:59:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Roussos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cannabis is a medicine that has helped millions of suffering people. The benefits of it far out weigh any cons. Restricting it will only cause more issues.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:19:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Rollins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It will affect the access of my family and friends to medicine. Not having access to this medicine could be detrimental mentally and physically to many people.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:44:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jerome james	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha i oppose this bill as it will affect my care provider and i believe my care provider is in good merit w the community

i believe that there needs to me more our state needs to do to be more in the current times and understand the actual needs of people in our state that need access to marijuana

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:13:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Childers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, it will affect my access and the access of my family and friends to accessible, affordable, and clean medicine.

It will create hardship and negatively affect the my way of life and my close family and friends. These establishments are only created to help, NOT to harm. Try to find harm, I dare you - you won't. The people who use these services desperately need relief. Many of these people are either denied other treatments due to cost/insurance, while others prefer a healthier alternative to addictive prescription meds.

Hawaii was the very first state to allow medical marijuana (by legislation instead of civilian initiatives). This clearly shows a past recognition from the legislation that marijuana helps more than it harms. The only thing this bill accomplishes would be to rip away medication from people who need it. And guess what? It won't fix a thing. Just like many other issues in this world, outlawing it will not fix the problem, it only makes people more sneaky and force them into more dangerous situations to achieve their goal.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:55:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello I oppose this bill this would bring my community and family hardship and suffering. This helps our chronic pain and helps us enjoy life.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 6:44:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dolores Martinez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an 86 year born and raised here i need my farm medicine to survive. Dont take away my rights to grow at care Waialua. I am completely off opioids and dont ever want to go to a dispensary...nor do they care about me....

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:20:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Gonzalez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Care Waiialua has been a life saver. They care about their patients. There are so many of us that do not know how to grow and this farm does that honestly and with great quality. This medicine helps so much people. Please give this farm a chance there are so many of us that rely on this farm to help us with our medical problems.