

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1309

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2023

MAR 17

RE: S.B. No. 673
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health & Homelessness, to which was referred S.B. No. 673, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize terminally ill patients to use medical cannabis in certain health care facilities, under certain conditions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from four individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Law Enforcement, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that terminally ill patients often experience severe pain, loss of appetite, and nausea, which are all symptoms that can be treated or alleviated through the medical use of cannabis. However, in many jurisdictions where medical cannabis is legal, including Hawaii, terminally ill patients are currently unable to continue taking medical cannabis as part of their treatment plan while in the hospital, even if they possess a valid registration card.

2023-2614 SB673 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee recognizes that in response to a need for terminally ill patients to have access to all appropriate medical treatments, California recently enacted the Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act, or "Ryan's Law", which allows terminally ill patients to use medical cannabis for palliative relief while receiving in-patient care at certain specified types of health care facilities. Your Committee understands the merits behind California's law, which is the first of its kind in the country. However, your Committee finds that additional discussion of this topic is needed prior to enacting a similar law in Hawaii.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing language that authorized terminally ill patients to use medical cannabis in certain health care facilities, under certain conditions;
- (2) Establishing a Terminally Ill Qualifying Patient Medical Cannabis Use Working Group to study the feasibility of permitting terminally ill qualifying patients to safely use medical cannabis within a health care facility and submit a report to the Legislature;
- (3) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 673, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 673, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health &
Homelessness,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



