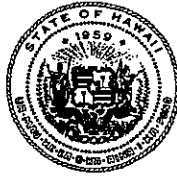


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs/Health

H.B. 1963, Relating to Medical Use of Marijuana

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

February 2, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports the intent of updating the list of medical marijuana
2 qualifying conditions in a professional way but does not currently have the expertise or resources to be
3 able to recommend changes to the Legislature.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Expense to the Department for contract hiring of 3-5 physician subject matter
5 experts for a panel on a scheduled basis to review, provide consultation, and recommend changes to the
6 list of marijuana qualifying, debilitating medical conditions. Additional resources of \$100,000 would be
7 necessary to contract out for consultation to recommend any changes to the Legislature.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill has a number of stated purposes; the one concerning the
9 Department of Health (DOH) requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature to amend the
10 list of debilitating medical conditions that may be treated with medical marijuana in Hawai'i. Three
11 months prior to the start of a regular session, DOH shall post public notice of intended changes in the
12 Office of the Lieutenant Governor. DOH shall then draft legislation of amendments.

13 The Department supports the intent of regularly updating the list of medical marijuana qualifying
14 conditions, but does not have the expertise or resources to implement this portion of Section 7 of 329.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support of HB 1963 – Relating to Medical Use of Marijuana

February 2, 2012, 11:15 am
Conference Room 309

TO: Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

FR: Alan Shinn, Executive Director
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite A-259
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 545-3228 x2

Please accept this testimony in support of *HB 1963- Relating to Medical Use of Marijuana*. The intent of HB 1963 is to tighten up “loop holes” and ambiguities in the existing medical marijuana regulations. It also increases sanctions for fraudulent misrepresentation about the use of marijuana as medicine.

This will help to reduce abuse and insure that only those individuals who legitimately use marijuana for terminal medical conditions and debilitating pain are served. In addition, it sends a clearer message to the public and especially our youth that marijuana is considered an illegal substance that can cause developmental and psychological harm.

We urge your support of the intent of HB 1963. Thank you.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:06 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: think_about_sahand@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sardari-Kermani Sahand
Organization: Individual
E-mail: think_about_sahand@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

By passing the bill HB1963, more confusion and frustration will arise. Please do not pass this bill, licensed doctors know why they prescribe medical marijuana to a patient (because it will benefit the patient). Patients also know why they risk still being arrested, even if having a legal medical marijuana card, and this is because patients feel it works and benefits them. Again please help the medical marijuana community have less confusion and be more confident regarding their rights, by having solid guidelines and not by taking the guidelines away.

Thank you,
Sincerely Sahand.

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:42 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: Lindabgood2@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Berry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Lindabgood2@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

When I was diagnosed with glaucoma, I was devastated. The thought of not being able to see the smiles on my grand-daughters face was overwhelming.

I took the eyedrops as prescribed but my eye pressure was still high. I became a medical marijuana patient and the difference was amazing! From 16 points to 6, the pressure on my eyes decreased with the use of marijuana. Even my eye doctor was amazed and told me to keep doing what I was doing to fight the pressure build-up. This magnificent herb will allow me to see for years to come, assuming I'm not made to be a criminal for it's use. Forcing Doctors to register their practices because they register patients is redundant, unless this bill will allow Doctors to dispense medical marijuana, these are PRIVATE practices which should remain just that.....private.

Limiting medicinal plants to fewer than seven would not work. To anyone attempting to grow their own or caregivers plants, it is not easy, as here in Hawaii the plants are beset by all manner of insect, molds, and neighbors stealing. Keeping marijuana a class one control substance is simply silly. (HR2600) Please realize the greatness of this medicinal plant and stop making it so very difficult for patients to medicate themselves. Thank-you, Linda Berry

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:38 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: malekomf@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Furutani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: malekomf@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I support HB1963 because I believe this bill will help to stop the abuse of marijuana and will bring the law back to its original intent to aid people with severe, debillitating diseases. The bill will also hold physicians, caregivers, and permit holders more accountable for their actions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark M. Furutani

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:33 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: norenef@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Norene Furutani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: norenef@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I support HB1963. I believe this bill will help curb the abuse of marijuana and bring the law back to its original intent which was to aid people with severe, debillitating diseases. HB1963 will also hold physicians, caregivers, and permit holders more accountable for their actions.

Respectfully submitted,
Norene Furutani

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:29 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: nimo1767@mail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Petricci
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nimo1767@mail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1963 Relating to the Medical Use of Marijuana. The bill creates more ambiguities in the program, adds overly punitive criminal penalties, and makes the allowable conditions more confusing.

The program was meant to help sick people, not to treat them as criminals. Please do not pass this bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:06 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: saralegal@live.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sara Steiner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: saralegal@live.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am a medical marijuana patient on the Big Island of Hawaii. I believe in the year 2000 Hawaii adopted the Compassionate Use of Medical Marijuana Act, or something along those lines. At this time I want to remind you the key word is "Compassionate"; and we are supposed to be clarifying and making these laws easier not harder on people.

I am outraged that you would create a felony charge for the use of a plant by a person who is a registered patient. You are completely ignoring the medical value of this plant which can be seen by easily doing a little research on Google. Our own Federal Government has a medical patent on cannabis, as do at least another 140 people or companies. So it is ok for the Federal Government to benefit from the medicinal properties of cannabis, but screw the people?

I also am dismayed at your treatment of doctors who choose to recommend a plant for treatment versus Oxycontin or Vicodins or what-ever-else they would recommend for the myriad of ills that cannabis can treat. Why are you creating such a huge mess of regulations over this plant? The tide of truth and understanding is changing in a positive way but the government is swimming against the tide and criminalizing more and more behavior.

Cannabis cures cancer, Google "Run from the Cure"; by Rick Simpson. His "Phoenix Tears"; will cure many types of cancer within two months, but you need a pound of marijuana, which you distill down to a couple ounces, but that would never be possible with your limits of three ounces per patient. I feel the State is nit-picking on sick people and their doctors instead of being compassionate and mature about the use of cannabis.

This bill has many other flaws as well, penalizing people who have served time by not letting them caregive. Limiting the number of patients who can grow or caregive at a single address by limiting the number of plants or ounces is just plain "making more rules";. I don't understand, it seems like someone (perhaps Keith Kamita) is sitting around just thinking up ways to discriminate against people who already have a hard enough time complying with these oppressive rules.

Finally, it seems like you are becoming more restrictive on the conditions which would qualify for medical cannabis. I have degenerative disc disease, and I would choose any day to use cannabis over opiate pain killers. You all should be glad, though the pharmaceutical

companies won't be, and I have to wonder who is lobbying you all to make such terrible laws... Let me guess: the DEA, police, prison industrial complex, pharmaceutical companies?

I beg you to take a more mature and enlightened approach to lawmaking in these regards. Please do a little research on your own about the beneficial properties of cannabis before you create more confusion and impossible laws. Thank you for your time, concern and compassion.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:57 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: moana.tavares@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deirdre Moana Tavares
Organization: Individual
E-mail: moana.tavares@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1963 Relating to the Medical Use of Marijuana. The bill creates more ambiguities in the program, adds overly punitive criminal penalties, and makes the allowable conditions more confusing.

The program was meant to help sick people, not to treat them as criminals. Please do not pass this bill.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:38 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: Lawton.mauai@vacationclub.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1963 on 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for PBM/HLT 2/2/2012 11:15:00 AM HB1963

Conference room: 309
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lawton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Lawton.mauai@vacationclub.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I support this bill because I believe it will help those with who really need the help but keep physicians, caregivers and permit holders more accountable.

Mahalo,