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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that although the State  
2 has taken many important steps to make medical cannabis  
3 available, further action is needed to ensure access. One way  
4 is to expand the scope of professionals who may provide written  
5 certification for qualifying patients to use medical cannabis.  
6 The legislature further finds that, as determined by the state  
7 board of naturopathic medicine, it is within the scope of  
8 naturopathic practice that medical cannabis be prescribed by  
9 naturopathic physicians.

10           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve patient  
11 access to medical cannabis by authorizing naturopathic  
12 physicians with the same authority as physicians and advanced  
13 practice registered nurses in regards to providing written  
14 certifications to qualified patients for the medical use of  
15 cannabis.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§329- Registration of naturopaths; medical cannabis;  
5 restrictions. (a) A naturopathic physician may register  
6 pursuant to this part to provide written certifications under  
7 part IX for the medical use of cannabis.

8 (b) All provisions of this part relating to practitioners  
9 who prescribe controlled substances shall be applied to  
10 naturopathic physicians providing written certifications under  
11 part IX for the medical use of cannabis; provided that this  
12 section shall not be construed to authorize any naturopathic  
13 physician to manufacture, distribute, prescribe, dispense, or  
14 conduct reverse distribution with any controlled substance  
15 within this State."

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 455, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§455- Medical use of cannabis; authorization. Subject  
20 to any requirements imposed by the department of public safety  
21 and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, a naturopathic



1 physician may register with the department of public safety  
2 pursuant to part III of chapter 329 and may obtain any federal  
3 Drug Enforcement Administration registration necessary to  
4 provide written certifications under part IX of chapter 329 for  
5 the medical use of cannabis."

6 SECTION 4. Section 329-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
9 and to read:

10 "Naturopathic physician" means a person who holds a  
11 current license issued under chapter 455 to practice  
12 naturopathic medicine and is registered pursuant to part III to  
13 provide written certifications under this part for the medical  
14 use of cannabis."

15 2. By amending the definition of "written certification"  
16 to read:

17 "Written certification" means the qualifying patient's  
18 medical records or a statement signed by a qualifying patient's  
19 physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced practice  
20 registered nurse, stating that in the physician's, naturopathic  
21 physician's, or advanced practice registered nurse's



1 professional opinion, the qualifying patient has a debilitating  
2 medical condition and the potential benefits of the medical use  
3 of cannabis would likely outweigh the health risks for the  
4 qualifying patient. The department of health may require,  
5 through its rulemaking authority, that all written  
6 certifications comply with a designated form. "Written  
7 certifications" are valid for one year from the time of signing;  
8 provided that the department of health may allow for the  
9 validity of any written certification for up to three years if  
10 the qualifying patient's physician, naturopathic physician, or  
11 advanced practice registered nurse states that the patient's  
12 debilitating medical condition is chronic in nature."

13 SECTION 5. Section 329-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

15 "(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the medical  
16 use of cannabis by a qualifying patient shall be permitted only  
17 if:

18 (1) The qualifying patient has been diagnosed by a  
19 physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced  
20 practice registered nurse as having a debilitating  
21 medical condition;



1           (2) The qualifying patient's physician, naturopathic  
2           physician, or advanced practice registered nurse has  
3           certified in writing that, in the physician's,  
4           naturopathic physician's, or advanced practice  
5           registered nurse's professional opinion, the potential  
6           benefits of the medical use of cannabis would likely  
7           outweigh the health risks for the particular  
8           qualifying patient; and

9           (3) The amount of cannabis possessed by the qualifying  
10          patient does not exceed an adequate supply."

11          SECTION 6. Section 329-123, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12          amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

13          "(a) Physicians, naturopathic physicians, or advanced  
14          practice registered nurses who issue written certifications  
15          shall provide, in each written certification, the name, address,  
16          patient identification number, and other identifying information  
17          of the qualifying patient. The department of health shall  
18          require, in rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, that all  
19          written certifications comply with a designated form completed  
20          by or on behalf of a qualifying patient. The form shall require  
21          information from [~~the~~]:



- 1        (1) The applicant [ ];
- 2        (2) The primary caregiver [ ]; and
- 3        (3) The physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced  
4        practice registered nurse, as specifically required or  
5        permitted by this chapter.

6        The form shall require the address of the location where  
7        the cannabis is grown and shall appear on the registry card  
8        issued by the department of health. The certifying physician,  
9        naturopathic physician, or advanced practice registered nurse  
10       shall be required to have a bona fide physician-patient  
11       relationship, bona fide naturopathic physician-patient  
12       relationship, or bona fide advanced practice registered nurse-  
13       patient relationship, as applicable, with the qualifying  
14       patient. All current active medical cannabis permits shall be  
15       honored through their expiration date.

16       (b) Qualifying patients shall register with the department  
17       of health. The registration shall be effective until the  
18       expiration of the certificate issued by the department of health  
19       and signed by the physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced  
20       practice registered nurse. Every qualifying patient shall  
21       provide sufficient identifying information to establish the



1 personal identities of the qualifying patient and the primary  
2 caregiver. Qualifying patients shall report changes in  
3 information within ten working days. Every qualifying patient  
4 shall have only one primary caregiver at any given time. The  
5 department of health shall issue to the qualifying patient a  
6 registration certificate, and shall charge \$35 per year."

7 SECTION 7. Section 329-126, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as  
9 follows:

10 "§329-126 Protections afforded to a treating physician,  
11 naturopathic physician, or advanced practice registered nurse.

12 (a) No physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced practice  
13 registered nurse shall be subject to arrest or prosecution,  
14 penalized in any manner, or denied any right or privilege for  
15 providing written certification for the medical use of cannabis  
16 for a qualifying patient; provided that:

17 (1) The physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced  
18 practice registered nurse has diagnosed the patient as  
19 having a debilitating medical condition, as defined in  
20 section 329-121;



- 1           (2) The physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced  
2           practice registered nurse has explained the potential  
3           risks and benefits of the medical use of cannabis, as  
4           required under section 329-122;
- 5           (3) The written certification is based upon the  
6           physician's, naturopathic physician's, or advanced  
7           practice registered nurse's professional opinion after  
8           having completed a full assessment of the patient's  
9           medical history and current medical condition made in  
10          the course of a bona fide physician-patient  
11          relationship, bona fide naturopathic physician-patient  
12          relationship, or bona fide advanced practice  
13          registered nurse-patient relationship, as applicable;  
14          and
- 15          (4) The physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced  
16          practice registered nurse has complied with the  
17          registration requirements of section 329-123."

18          SECTION 8. Section 329-128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19          amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

20          "(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, fraudulent  
21          misrepresentation to a law enforcement official of any fact or





1 circumstance relating to the issuance of a written certificate  
2 by a physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced practice  
3 registered nurse not covered under section 329-126 for the  
4 medical use of cannabis shall be a misdemeanor. This penalty  
5 shall be in addition to any other penalties that may apply for  
6 the non-medical use of cannabis."

7 SECTION 9. Section 455-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 1. By adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
10 inserted and to read:

11 "Cannabis" shall have the same meaning as in section  
12 329-121.

13 "Medical use" with respect to cannabis shall have the same  
14 meaning as "medical use" as in section 329-121."

15 2. By amending the definition of "naturopathic formulary"  
16 to read:

17 "Naturopathic formulary" means vitamins, minerals, dietary  
18 supplements, botanical medicines, homeopathic medicines,  
19 hormones, [and] those legend drugs consistent with naturopathic  
20 medical practice[-], and cannabis for medical use; provided that



1 the naturopathic formulary shall not include any narcotic drugs  
2 or other controlled substances, as defined in section 329-1."

3 SECTION 10. Section 455-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) In addition to any other actions authorized by law,  
6 the board shall have the power to deny, revoke, suspend, or  
7 refuse to renew any license to practice naturopathic medicine  
8 applied for or issued by the board in accordance with this  
9 chapter, and to fine or otherwise discipline a licensee for any  
10 cause authorized by law, including but not limited to the  
11 following:

- 12 (1) Failing to meet or maintain the conditions and  
13 requirements necessary to qualify for the issuance of  
14 a license;
- 15 (2) Procuring, or aiding or abetting in procuring, a  
16 criminal abortion;
- 17 (3) Employing any person to solicit patients;
- 18 (4) Obtaining a fee on the assurance that a manifestly  
19 incurable disease can be permanently cured;
- 20 (5) Betraying a patient's confidence;



- 1           (6) Making any untruthful and improbable statement in
- 2           advertising one's naturopathic practice or business;
- 3           (7) False, fraudulent, or deceptive advertising;
- 4           (8) Being habituated to the excessive use of drugs or
- 5           alcohol; or being addicted to, dependent on, or [~~an~~] a
- 6           habitual user of a narcotic, barbiturate, amphetamine,
- 7           hallucinogen, or other drug having similar effects;
- 8           (9) Practicing naturopathic medicine while the ability to
- 9           practice is impaired by alcohol, drug, physical
- 10          disability, or mental instability;
- 11          (10) Procuring a license through fraud, misrepresentation,
- 12          or deceit or knowingly permitting an unlicensed person
- 13          to perform activities requiring a license;
- 14          (11) Professional misconduct or gross carelessness or
- 15          manifest incapacity in the practice of naturopathic
- 16          medicine;
- 17          (12) Conduct or practice contrary to recognized standard of
- 18          ethics of the naturopathic profession;
- 19          (13) Using medical service or treatment which is
- 20          inappropriate or unnecessary;



- 1 (14) Submitting to or filing with the board any notice,  
2 statement, or other document required under this  
3 chapter [~~which~~] that is false or untrue or contains  
4 any material misstatement of fact, including any false  
5 certification of compliance with the continuing  
6 education requirement specified under section 455-8;
- 7 (15) Failure to report to the board any disciplinary action  
8 taken against the licensee in another jurisdiction  
9 within thirty days after the disciplinary action  
10 becomes final;
- 11 (16) Using the title "physician" without clearly  
12 identifying oneself as being a naturopathic physician;
- 13 (17) Prescribing, administering, and dispensing  
14 naturopathic formulary that are not included in the  
15 formulary established by the board under section  
16 455-6; [~~and~~]
- 17 (18) Violation of chapter 329, the uniform controlled  
18 substances act, or any rule adopted thereunder, except  
19 as provided in section 329-122; and
- 20 [~~(18)~~] (19) Violation of any provision of this chapter or  
21 rules adopted under this chapter."



1           SECTION 11. This Act does not affect rights and duties  
2 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that  
3 were begun before its effective date.

4           SECTION 12. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6           SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Medical Cannabis; Naturopathic Physicians; Written Certification

**Description:**

Authorizes naturopathic physicians with the same authority as physicians and advanced practice registered nurses in regards to providing written certifications to qualified patients for the medical use of cannabis. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

