

Akamai Cannabis Clinic 3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304 Honolulu, HI 96816

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Edward E. Case U.S. Representative, Hawaii District 1 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1110 Honolulu, HI 96813

PLEASE SPEAK WITH GOVERNOR IGE

Dear Representative Case,

Thank you for your reply to my recent inquiry about ending the conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana. I especially appreciated your statement that "state laws and policies towards marijuana, including relations with the federal government, are determined by the state government".

This is precisely the point I have been trying to make to our state, that the federal administrative rule (<u>21 CFR 1308.11</u>) that has marijuana on the Schedule I controlled substance list does not pre-empt an authority reserved to the states by the U.S. Constitution to decide how controlled substances are used within the state.

I have discussed this matter with many of our state lawmakers, which resulted in two pairs of federal exemption companion bills (<u>SB669/HB668</u> and <u>SB147/HB867</u>) and two pairs of companion resolutions (<u>SCR250/SR209</u> and <u>HCR132/HR112</u>) this Session. Unfortunately, the bills were not granted hearings because apparently the Governor will not support such measures. We are still waiting to see the fate of the resolutions.

This is why I am asking for your assistance in discussing this matter with Governor Ige. I do not understand why the Governor is so resistant to taking action that could end this conflict. Some say that we should wait for Congress to fix a problem that the State created when it authorized the use of cannabis in Hawaii. However, I believe that doing so will likely result in a national cannabis tax that will drive people to the black market and create even more government bureaucracy.

May I please schedule a time to discuss this matter further with a member of your staff.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD <u>cliftonotto@hotmail.com</u> 808-233-8267.