



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

April 5, 2021

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

POSITION ON MEDICAL CANNABIS UNCLEAR

Dear Governor Ige,

I am having a difficult time understanding your position on the state authorized use of cannabis for medical purposes in Hawaii.

On July 14, 2015 you signed [HB321](#) (Act 241, SLH 2015) into law, creating a state licensed medical cannabis dispensary program for Hawaii, and on July 11, 2016 you signed [HB2707](#) (Act 230, SLH 2016) into law, authorizing dispensaries to transport cannabis samples between islands for required testing purposes.

However, on July 9, 2019 you vetoed [HB290](#) (SLH 2019), which would have protected the right of patients to travel between islands with their state authorized cannabis medicine, because you thought that such transport violated federal law.

This is just one example of the confusion and hardship that is being created by the ongoing conflict between the state authorized use of cannabis for medical purposes in Hawaii and the federal regulation of marijuana. However, because the federal administrative rule that has marijuana on the Schedule I list ([21 CFR 1308.11](#)) does not pre-empt a constitutional authority reserved to the states to decide how controlled substances are used within the state, I believe that there are steps the State can take to end this unnecessary conflict.

Once again, I respectfully request an opportunity to open discussion on this matter.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD
cliftonotto@hotmail.com
808-233-8267.