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May 15, 2021

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

UPDATE ON FEDERAL EXEMPTION

Dear Governor Ige,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the federal exemption situation in Hawaii.

[Certified copies](#) of [HCR132](#) were mailed on May 6, 2021 (verified by phone with the House Clerk's Office) to our Congressional delegates, your office, the Attorney General, and the Department of Health (DOH) Director as required. So far, I have only been able to verify that Representative Case's office has received their copy. Certified copies are sent by regular mail without tracking, which is why I requested a copy of my own.

In the meantime, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) submitted a [request](#) to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for federal funding guarantees on April 23, 2021, and a [citizen petition](#) was submitted to the DEA on May 14, 2021. As a result, there are at least two parties outside of Hawaii that are formally asking the DEA to do something about the current conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana.

Because Hawaii has a vested interest in this matter, it seems to me that our state should, at the very least, let IDPH and the DEA know that we need to be involved. Perhaps one way forward would be for DOH to fulfill the Legislature's request in HCR132 by joining the recent Iowa citizen petition, along with IDPH, as a co-petitioner.

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

Aloha,

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