

## **Akamai Cannabis Clinic**

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304 Honolulu, HI 96816

December 7, 2020

Christina M. Kishimoto, PhD Superintendent, Hawaii State Dept of Education 1390 Miller Street Honolulu, HI 96813

## MEDICAL CANNABIS USE AT SCHOOL

Dear Superintendent Kishimoto,

I would like to pursue with you the issue of students having access to cannabis on school grounds that is authorized under state law for medical purposes.

The common answer is that this issue cannot be addressed because of a conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana and because of DOE's drug free policy.

However, I would like to propose a <u>solution</u> that would end the current federal conflict and allow students with qualifying disabilities such as epilepsy and cancer to receive medical cannabis on campus without the fear of DOE losing federal funding.

Funding concerns are very real as the <u>State of Maine</u> discovered when it lost \$3.3M of federal funding for its student mental health program because it allows students to use state authorized cannabis for medical purposes. Such concerns also motivated the State of Iowa's legislature last Session to mandate that their <u>Department of Public Health</u> try to obtain federal guarantees that funding would not be withheld from school programs and long-term care facilities where the state authorized use of cannabis for medical purposes is allowed.

For the health and safety of our medical cannabis patient students, we really need to end this federal conflict. Could we please schedule a time to discuss this issue before the upcoming legislative Session. Thank you for everything you and your team are doing to keep our schools safe. Hope you are all safe and well.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD

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