



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

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**HEARING REQUEST FOR SB669**

Dear Senator Nishihara,

Thank you for considering a virtual public hearing for [SB669](#) – Relating to Controlled Substances. We are in desperate need of a way to end the current conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana, and this bill provides a solution that could be acted upon at the state level where this conflict first started.

I thought you would also appreciate seeing my recent correspondence with the Department of Education (DOE), which includes my [initial letter](#) to Superintendent Kishimoto, a recent [reply](#) from DOE's Risk Manager, and my [response](#).

The Legislature is in a difficult position when it comes to ending the federal conflict because it must rely upon legal guidance from the Office of the Attorney General (AG), which has traditionally been unsupportive of the State's sovereign authority to determine how controlled substances are used within the state.

Whenever your colleagues have tried to get the AG to provide advice on steps the state can take to end this conflict, they have been met with opinions that fail to recognize our state's constitutional authority over this matter. This is very frustrating coming from a state agency that should be eager to protect this authority of the State.

Nonetheless, I appreciate your willingness to consider a means by which the State can take action on this issue. Waiting for Congress to fix a conflict that the State created will only compromise Hawaii's future ability to decide how controlled substances are used within the state.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD  
[cliftonotto@hotmail.com](mailto:cliftonotto@hotmail.com)  
808-233-8267.