



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

December 12, 2020

Parkinson's Foundation  
1359 Broadway, Ste 1509  
New York, NY 10018

Dear Parkinson's Foundation,

I have been reviewing the information on your website for a group of PD patients in Hawaii who asked me to give a presentation on the topic of Parkinson's and Cannabis.

I found your [Consensus Statement on Use of Medical Cannabis for Parkinson's Disease](#) very helpful, but I had to pause when I came to the section on "Obtaining Medical Cannabis Through a Dispensary" on page 14. Specifically, I found the following sentence rather disturbing:

"You should work with the person at the dispensary to find products that may fit your symptoms."

I cannot tell you how many medical cannabis patients have come back to me with descriptions of THC toxicity after having followed the advice of some "bud-tender" at a dispensary.

This is a problem in Hawaii because our Department of Health does not see anything wrong with dispensary staff giving direction to patients on product selection and dosages, even though dispensary staff have no medical training and are not authorized to discuss confidential medical information with patients. In my mind, such direction constitutes medical advice, and should only be handled by the certifying provider.

I would like to suggest that you change this section in your Consensus Statement to include wording that emphasizes the importance of obtaining ongoing supervision for the medical use of cannabis from the certifying provider, especially when such supervision is mandated under state law, as is the case in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering this request.

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