

Akamai Cannabis Clinic

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304 Honolulu, HI 96816

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, HI 96813

HEARING REQUEST FOR SB241

Dear Senator Rhoads,

I hope that you are able to grant a public hearing for <u>SB241</u> – Relating to Medical Cannabis, which passed out of a combined hearing by the Senate Committee on Health (<u>HTH</u>) and the Senator Committee on Transportation (<u>TRS</u>) yesterday.

I thought you would appreciate seeing my public <u>testimony</u> on this measure before HTH/TRS. In particular, I wanted to bring to your attention the <u>comments</u> of the HTH Chair during decision making:

"This measure was passed last year and was vetoed by the Governor. We have a new federal administration that is likely to have a different policy as it relates to cannabis, especially as the industry and medical cannabis in general has changed so drastically over the last several years nationally. So, I am going to recommend that our committee pass this measure out un-amended."

I thought you would also appreciate this online article from the Marijuana Policy Project entitled <u>State Marijuana Regulation Laws Are Not Preempted by Federal Law</u>.

Now that we have a new federal administration and a new Senate Health Chair, I hope that you will be able to re-examine options that the State can act upon to end the discrimination against our medical cannabis patients and protect our state's sovereign authority to decide how controlled substances are used within the state. SB241 may be the perfect opportunity to address the issues of interisland transport and the conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana simultaneously. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD

cliftonotto@hotmail.com

808-233-8267.