



Akamai Cannabis Clinic

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1139
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS CONTROL AND
REGULATION

By
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Senate Committee on Health
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 1:05 PM
State Capitol, Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments on this measure.

[SB1139](#) increases the medical cannabis patient registration fee from \$35 to \$45 beginning FY 2022 and adds three full time positions to the Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation (OMCCR).

Before passing this measure, I believe that the Committee should, if it hasn't already done so, require that the Department of Health (DOH) disclose at this virtual public hearing the current status of the Medical Cannabis Registry and Regulation Special Fund and how monies in this fund have been used over the past two years.

Such financial accountability is essential given OMCCR's failure to properly regulate dispensaries over the past two years by allowing them to "remediate" moldy cannabis flowers into secondary manufactured products that have been sold to patients without their knowledge and without statutory authority or administrative rules to formally regulate this process. OMCCR has also failed to fulfill a statutory obligation under HRS [321-30.1](#) and [329D-26](#) to provide medical cannabis education to the community.

Fixing the regulatory deficiencies of OMCCR is not simply a matter of giving this office more money and staff. I recommend that the Committee amend this bill to require that OMCCR be moved from its current location under the Health Resources Administration ([HRA](#)) to the Environmental Health Administration ([EHA](#)), which already has the necessary regulatory capabilities within the Food Safety Branch.

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In addition, OMCCR is lacking the medical expertise that is required to ensure adequate regulatory oversight of Hawaii's Medical Cannabis Program. I recommend that the Committee also amend this bill to require that one of the full-time positions being added to OMCCR be a certified Cannabinoid Medicine Specialist.

I would support this bill if the recommended changes above were made.

Aloha.