



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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2870  
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

By  
Clifton Otto, MD

Senate Committee on Housing  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Room 225 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of this measure, with a proposal for amendment.

Eviction from public housing is a devastating event that many of our medical cannabis patients are facing because of the ongoing conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana. This conflict needs to be addressed, and [SB2870](#) is an opportunity to do so.

Unfortunately, searching for alternative remedies for evictions could have little impact upon public housing property owners who have zero tolerance for any activities that violate federal law. A federal exemption for the state authorized use of cannabis in Hawaii is one way to eliminate this conflict. This solution was unanimously adopted by both chambers of the Legislature last Session in [HCR132](#).

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority ([HPHA](#)) may be the perfect agency to act on this issue because of its mission to “provide Hawaii residents with affordable housing and shelter without discrimination”.

Please consider inserting the following language at Page 2, Line 19:

and provided further that to reduce the risk of unwarranted evictions the authority shall file for a federal exemption under [21 CFR 1307.03](#) and [21 CFR 1308.43](#) for the state authorized use of any controlled substance that may create a conflict with federal law or regulation.

Thank you.