



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

January 18, 2021

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

MOVING OMCCR TO EHA

Dear Representative Yamane,

I wanted to share with you a [letter](#) that I recently sent to Director Char at the Department of Health ([DOH](#)) regarding a proposal that the Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation (OMCCR) be moved from Health Resources Administration ([HRA](#)) to Environmental Health Administration ([EHA](#)) in order to resolve the department's current regulatory deficiencies.

The reason for arriving at this proposal is that EHA contains the Sanitation Branch ([Food Safety Branch](#)), which is fully capable of taking on the duty of regulating dispensaries and was in the middle of doing so just before OMCCR was created and placed under HRA.

I believe that the Legislature erred in 2018 when it passed [HB2742](#) because HRA does not have the resources or the expertise necessary to regulate dispensaries in a manner that can ensure dispensary compliance and protect patient health and safety. Perhaps the current situation can be corrected with the following statutory amendment:

§329D-2.5 Office of medical cannabis control and regulation; established; duties. (a) There is established within the department the office of medical cannabis control and regulation, which shall report to the deputy director of [~~health resources administration~~] environmental health administration.

I sincerely hope that this matter can be address during the upcoming Session. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important health issue.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD
cliftonotto@hotmail.com
808-233-8267.