



# STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## Statement Regarding the Establishment of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Hawaii

The enactment of HB 321 will require the Department of Health to develop interim administrative rules for the establishment of a safe and efficient medical marijuana dispensary system that provides access for registered patients to meet their treatment needs. The department will also expedite the creation and recruitment of positions to coordinate and manage the dispensary system including the license application process, evaluation, selection, monitoring and compliance.

The department will announce the application period for dispensary licenses in December of this year and applications will be accepted beginning in mid-January 2016.

### Questions & Answers Regarding Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Hawaii

#### When will the Department of Health begin accepting applications for licenses to dispense medical marijuana in Hawaii?

The Department of Health will announce the application period for dispensary licenses in December of this year. License applications will be accepted beginning in mid-January 2016.

#### How many licenses will be available?

A total of eight (8) dispensary licenses will be issued: three (3) for the City & County of Honolulu, two (2) for Hawaii County, two (2) for Maui County, and one (1) for Kauai County. Each license will allow the operation of two production sites and two retail locations within the county for which the license is issued. A selected applicant may receive no more than one (1) license.

#### When will medical marijuana be available for sale from a dispensary?

The legislation allows licensed dispensaries to begin selling medical marijuana in Hawaii between July 15 and Nov. 1, 2016.

### **How will the state ensure the safety and quality of products sold by dispensaries?**

Dispensaries will be required to have their product tested by a certified laboratory within their county.

### **What is the department doing now to establish the medical marijuana dispensary system in Hawaii?**

The department has begun drafting interim rules for a statewide dispensary system and will establish and recruit positions to create, implement and manage the program. In order to develop a safe, efficient and sustainable system that will provide access to registered patients for treatment, the department must create the application criteria, evaluation and selection process, testing, regulatory and compliance standards within a very limited timeframe. The schedule for opening dispensaries with production and retail locations in every county is outlined in the legislation available at [www.health.hawaii.gov/medicalmarijuana](http://www.health.hawaii.gov/medicalmarijuana).

### **Will registered patients and their caregivers be allowed to continue to grow and process medical marijuana for their treatment?**

Registered patients and their caregivers may continue to grow and process medical marijuana for their treatment in accordance with the state's registration rules. Under HB 321, caregivers will be required to cease growing for their patients after Dec. 31, 2018 unless the caregiver is a parent of a minor who is a registered patient or if the registered patient is unable to grow their own plants due to a physical disability as described in the legislation.

### **Where can I find more information about medical marijuana dispensaries in Hawaii?**

As information becomes available, it will be posted here at [www.health.hawaii.gov/medicalmarijuana](http://www.health.hawaii.gov/medicalmarijuana).