



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ANNOUNCE MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY LICENSEES BY APRIL 29**

HONOLULU -- The Hawaii State Department of Health is reviewing the criminal history records of applicants for the Medical Marijuana Dispensary licenses after announcing last week that applicants were given notice to provide consents and submit fingerprints.

"The applicants have been very responsive and a majority of applicants were able to submit their fingerprints and consents by Tuesday," according to Peggy Leong, Supervisor for the Medical Marijuana Dispensary Licensing Program. "A small number of applicants are traveling abroad and unable to respond as quickly as we had hoped. In addition, it also came to our attention that many business entities, such as limited liability corporations, corporations and trusts failed to submit the consents and fingerprints of the individuals involved in the entities. The department sent an email to all applicants clarifying the requirements of who is subject to a background check."

"Given the situation, and in order to provide all applicants a fair opportunity to comply with the statutory requirements, we may not be able to obtain and review the remaining information until the last week of April," Leong added.

Director of Health Dr. Virginia Pressler said, "We have requested that applicants submit the remaining consents and fingerprints no later than April 25 and we will be pushing hard to complete our review and announce the licensees by Friday, April 29. While we regret the delay, we believe the priority is to do this the right way, and that includes being fair to the applicants by providing this additional time."

Leong said the applicants have all been very cooperative and understanding, despite the challenges of establishing a brand new and complex program, "We really appreciate their patience and willingness to work through this with us."

More information about the Medical Marijuana Dispensary Program can be found on the website: <https://health.hawaii.gov/medicalmarijuanadispensary>

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