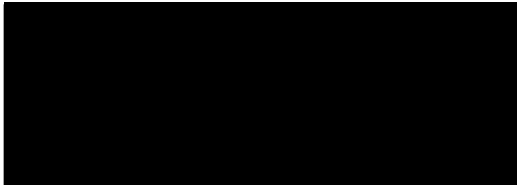


**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

December 19, 2017



Dear [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Approval of Petition to Add Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) as a Qualifying Condition for the Medical Use of Cannabis in the State of Hawaii

This letter is in response to the petition that you submitted on June 5, 2017 to add ALS as a qualifying condition for the medical use of cannabis in the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) reviewed your petition and found that it meets the requirements, as specified in HAR § 11-160-7, for DOH to consider adding ALS as a qualifying medical condition.

In addition to reviewing your submission, DOH considered public testimony, laws and policies of medical cannabis programs in other parts of the country, and published scientific literature. DOH finds that:

- All written and oral testimony submitted for the public hearing were supportive of adding ALS as a qualifying medical condition;
- Of the 29 states and U.S. jurisdictions permitting medical cannabis, 19 include ALS as a qualifying health condition; and
- A review of the available peer-reviewed scientific evidence finds little medical evidence for the potential benefits of cannabis relative to ALS. However, ALS does share many of the similar symptoms associated with Multiple Sclerosis which is recognized in Hawaii as a qualifying health condition for the use of medical cannabis.

Despite the limited medical evidence available, given the severity, progressive degeneration, limited treatment options, and generally poor prognosis of ALS, and in the context of Hawaii's laws and policies, DOH finds that it is reasonable that the appropriateness of medical cannabis for ALS patients should be determined through a comprehensive assessment by the patients' physician or APRN and a risk-benefit discussion. Given the limited medical evidence, DOH could not support adding a less severe condition, as the potential harm would more likely outweigh any benefits.

December 19, 2017

Page Two

After investigation and careful consideration of the available information, DOH has determined the petition to add ALS as a qualifying condition for medical use of cannabis merits approval. Under the DOH medical cannabis registry program, individuals with ALS can be considered for registry as medical cannabis patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia Pressler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "V" at the beginning.

Virginia Pressler, M.D.  
Director of Health