

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 26**

**Late**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Monica Delgado

**Please enter your phone number**

[REDACTED]

**Please select the meeting date that you are submitting written testimony for.**

April 25, 2022

**Please select the agenda items numbers you are submitting written testimony for.**

- Agenda Item #8

**Please indicate the agenda item numbers you are submitting testimony for and enter your written testimony below:**

Aloha, My name is Monica Delgado and I am submitting testimony for the 04/25/2022 meeting, agenda item #6 and #8. First of all, we would like to express agreeable consensus when it comes to further review of the current laws for the state of Hawaii. There is still a lot to learn in regard to Cannabis Hemp and its decriminalization for the future. Following suit of any other state is not adequate and further education must be had to fully understand the plant. Also, the discrimination that still exists surrounding the use of cannabis is antiquated and needs complete abolition and forgiveness of past crime. This leads back to why more knowledge is needed. Our endocannabinoid systems are very distinct and putting a set level of laws to the effects of cannabis on people is grossly skewed. Hawaii has a chance here to prove to the entire nation that the plant has no bias and neither should its laws. We encourage patients to grow their own medicine like they would lavender or any other herb. Over regulation of the plant will become its demise and further bring down economic and legacy farmer.

We also ask that careful consideration be taken in regard to this "task force" member. There should be a balanced panel to include voices from those affected by the law to those implementing new laws; such as current licensee's and other professionals already in the cannabis business.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our testimony and hope many good things come from this effort.

Monica Delgado  
Hawai'i Norml Founder/Secretary

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 25**

**Late**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

zion makanaokamalu

**Please enter your phone number**

[REDACTED]

**Please select the meeting date that you are submitting written testimony for.**

April 25, 2022

**Please select the agenda items numbers you are submitting written testimony for.**

- Agenda Item #1

**Please indicate the agenda item numbers you are submitting testimony for and enter your written testimony below:**

I am submitting written testimony for the 04/25/2022 meeting, agenda item #1 Medical Cannabis is the healing of the nation. It is a God Given herb meant to use for amazing purposes and healing. I am a former cancer survivor, I had cancer at the age of 4 and I've went through chemotherapy, Medical cannabis saved my life! it is keeping me cancer free. I am now turning 29 years old on April 27th and I am still cancer-free. Please do what is right for the people, big pharma doesn't want Medical cannabis to win. Let's keep it legalized for Hawaii, Medical cannabis can generate a lot of money for Hawaii and it is a good cause. Please study more about Medical cannabis, it's all about educating and healing. Aloha and mahalo - Zion

April 25, 2022

Late

## Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force

Aloha Task Force members, my name is Georgianna DeCosta, and I would like to speak to the dual use format you are exploring.

I am a heroin and methamphetamine addict with more than 20 years in recovery, a chronic pain sufferer, and a 329 card holder. I also am the former executive director of Hawaii Meth Project, having provided drug prevention education to thousands of youth and many communities about the tough issue of drug addiction.

Daily, I struggle with pain and immobility due to multiple chronic conditions. The pain is constant and unbearable at times, particularly in my head and in all of my joints. As a former heroin addict, medications such as opiates are not options I can consider. Medical cannabis is the only safe pain relief I have, and one of the only ways I can sleep at night. But regularly shopping at the dispensary is not cost efficient for me. It is not only the tax rate, but the base rate of the product itself that seems to be out of reach for so many of us patients. We need options that allow us to have equity across the board for all patient.

Because of my illnesses, I am no longer able to work full time outside of my home. I no longer have the income to continuously pay the high prices set in our current “corporate” dispensary model. We need our patient led co-ops and grow sites. As it stands now, patients do not seem to be the focus on the States Medical Cannabis program, but rather, the dispensaries making them the money. We need balance and equity and we need it now.

- First, we must preserve the sanctity of the medical program, including safe and equitable access to all patients in need. This includes co-ops and shared grow sites for patients that need that extra help, as well as keeping purely recreational users out of this pool.
- Second, explore models of dual use in other states such as Maine which sets a path for healthy, sustainable, and manageable, growth for the local industry.
- Finally, I highly recommend that Hawaii take serious steps towards engaging youth and communities using a harm reduction approach now. Prioritizing youth conversations about how it could be harmful to ingest cannabis while they are still growing.

Let’s not wait until the Federal government moves forward on legalization, because that will be too late. We must take our heads out of the sand and face the issue head on. It’s not a matter of *if* legalization will happen, it’s *when*. Please, let’s wo7rk out a pono program for all.

Mahalo