



**Akamai Cannabis Consulting**

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304

Honolulu, HI 96816

**DUAL USE OF CANNABIS TASK FORCE**

MEETING 2

May 23, 2022

TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS II, III, IV and V

Clifton Otto, MD

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the following agenda items:

**Agenda item II - Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2022:**

Please include in the member list a financial disclosure of all dispensary associations. A certifying physician and certifying APRN who are actively providing certifications as their primary healthcare activity are still lacking on this task force. Please add these members before the next task force meeting.

**Agenda item III – Panel presentation on issues facing other states:**

Please have each presenter comment on how they dealt with the violation of federal drug law during their state’s transition to adult use.

**Agenda item IV – Formation of Working Groups:**

a – Tax: the federal conflict and the inability to use banks or deduct business expenses will create an unsustainable tax burden on any new adult use operation.

b – Social Equity: there can be no social equity when groups that are already being disproportionately affected by the criminalization of cannabis must violate federal law to participate and risk further discrimination.

c – Market Structure: there can be no legitimate market structure when businesses must violate federal law to participate.

d – Medical Use: patients cannot be safe or receive proper care if they must violate federal law to participate in Hawaii’s Medical Cannabis Program.

e – Public Health and Safety: criminal activity is only encouraged by failing to address the ongoing violation of federal law, which undermines public health and safety.

**Agenda item V – Additional issues to be addressed by the task force:**

The complexity of the conflict between the state authorized use of cannabis and the federal regulation of marijuana warrants a separate Federal Conflict Working Group, which can be conducted without having to deal with the topic of federal legalization.

Aloha.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jeremy Nickle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 10:45 AM  
**To:** DOH.OMCCR  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony dual use task force

**Categories:** Green Category

Having a closed door vote on who can get a medical Marijuana or recreational license, and not issuing anymore is wrong. It's been many years the current stores are selling more than \$10,000 a day in product, this money should be evenly spread out among whoever wants to get in the business, what We need most of all is fairness and free commerce. Issue license to anyone who wants to join this cash business. If they have been arrested before for marijuana they should have first dibs. Social justice...

by the state privatizing this successful business model and hoarding the licenses to the select few seems to be unjust. With this task force in place I think they can enforce many licensees not just the 3 on Oahu.

License need to be issued like a tobacco license any retailer could get one.

Jeremy nickle  
Hawaiian holy smokes CEO

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kimberly Ratliff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** DOH.OMCCR  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Medical Cannabis Testimony

**Categories:** Green Category

Aloha!

I'm grateful to have my medical cannabis license for the past 4-5yrs for pain from my chronic tmj, anxiety and it helps control my menopause. I'm a mom of two teens and a business owner and there's no way I'd be able to forge through my mom duties and progress my art business without the assistance of taking indica cannabis i infuse in coconut oil to take every night. It also helped me cope with a bout of depression during Covid lockdowns.

My life is very active. When I take my oil at night I wake as if there was a recent button. I'm not groggy and I'm pain free and menopause symptoms free to get my long list of things done everyday.

Mahalo  
Kim Ratliff

--

Mahalo's, Kimberly Ratliff

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kahunaaloha [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 12:08 PM  
**To:** DOH.OMCCR  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony

**Categories:** Green Category

Aloha: We need a pod café like Woody Harrelson opened up woods in Los Angeles and it's a huge success people want to be able to socialize while they heal their mind body and soul the spiritual wellness and well-being of the population especially senior citizens like myself smoke a bowl and your whole day is good there goes by very easy you don't even have to be angry at all what's that worth.?

[REDACTED]

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**From:** SUZANNE HUTCHINS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 1:59 PM  
**To:** DOH.OMCCR  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Medical cannabis

**Categories:** Green Category

To whom it may concern,

I have had a cannabis medical card for two years. I have suggestions

1. It costs me \$15 monthly to have this card, yearly application fee and annual doctor's fee.
2. When I visited California 2018 there was a huge variety of edibles offered when comparing to Hawaii.
3. The cost in California for cannabis edibles is far more AFFORDABLE .

In conclusion, when compared with Hawaii's yearly medical card Fee, required yearly doctor visit and yearly application FEE in HAWAII the Cost for edibles is extravagantly expensive.

It is my hope that the Hawaiian decision makers will listen to suggestion from a cannabis patient.

Much mahalo,

Jimmi Suzanne Schierbrock-Hutchins



# Testimony of Cure Oahu

To the Dual Use Cannabis Task Force

On Item IV – Discussion and formation of Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs)

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on the Task Force's establishment of PIGs. Cure Oahu is a vertically integrated licensed dispensary operating in the State of Hawaii since 2018. We maintain and operate two retail locations in Kapahulu and Kapolei. Our number one goal is to support our customers in their healing and be a resource for them.

We see the establishment of PIGs as an integral part of the process of developing the roadmap for the future of cannabis use in the State of Hawaii. We do however provide the following comments on the proposed makeup and issues related to the PIGs.

- **Under the proposed Public Health and Safety Working Group – the inclusion of products, packaging, standards, and quality assurance as issues for the PIG to review.**
- **Discussion of the conflict with existing legal frameworks around banking, insurance, intrastate transportation, etc.**

As one of the eight licensed dispensaries in the State of Hawaii, we feel it appropriate and advantageous and would appreciate the opportunity to participate in any or all of the following PIGs; (1) Market Structure, (2) Public Health and Safety, and/or (3) Tax working groups.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 31****Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

James Anthony

**Please enter your phone number**

[REDACTED]

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

May 23, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #4
- Agenda Item #5

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

Honorable Task Force Members:

This year the Legislature acknowledged the particular importance of the social equity issue as the primary framework for cannabis legalization. (See, SR 139 SD1.) Legalization must only be considered in the context of justice for Native Hawaiians and other victims of the war on drugs (and continuity of medical access) first, then business profit-making, not the other way around. The Task Force's "task" is to start the discussion in this framework now--and to generate a report with appropriate recommendations and options, on that basis.

I am submitting written testimony for the 05/23/2022 meeting, agenda items IV(a)-(e) and V as chair of the Hawai'i Cannabis Hui. The Hui has been meeting weekly for over a year now, specifically on social equity issues. The Hui includes cannabis activists, 329 patients and caregivers, hemp farmers, Native Hawaiians and other Hawaii kama'aina--even some licensed dispensaries are participating and supporting the social equity initiative.

1) PIGs should include non-task force experts and stakeholders--and should hold noticed meetings open to the public, or at least some such inclusive open public "hearings" in addition to closed door secret PIG-only meetings, if any.

2) PIGs should develop recommendations AND alternative options, possibly similar in format to the August 2014 LRB report, "IS THE GRASS ALWAYS GREENER? AN UPDATED LOOK AT OTHER STATE MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAMS."

3) Social Equity PIG should include issue of continuity of medical access: the survival of caregivers and coops is a social equity issue as it provides a model of low "barrier to entry" diversified supply chain beneficial to existing medical cultivators and to the patients and consumers, all of whom overlap the social equity beneficiary population.

4) Tax policy is a social equity issue as it defines capture/transfer of underground market to the aboveground market--which is the very touchstone of both a successful legalization program and a viable social equity approach--because failure in this regard, as in so many other states, indicates that the market has been bifurcated into a wealthy sector and an underclass sector, reinforcing criminalization and leading to perverse "enforcement" incentives, that is, War on Drugs 2.0 (California is a pointed example of this danger).

5) Market structure similarly is also a social equity issue in that it will define ease of entry and therefore impact the social equity

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 31**

population intended to be benefited, possibly excluding them completely as has been the result in almost every other jurisdiction leading then to a patchwork band aid approach of attempting to let them in to something which by design excludes and prejudices them.

6) Medical use is also a social equity issue as mentioned above.

7) Public Health and Public Safety issues are likewise social equity issues because they can lead to criminalization as enforcement and a continuation of the war on drugs, including Jim Crow second-class citizen status of users in the contexts of employment, child custody, family law, driving privileges, etc.

In summary all aspects of legalization impact social equity and must be viewed through it as the primary lens. Legalization in Hawaii must not be the same social equity disaster that it has been in every other state where it is treated as an afterthought, as a kind of mere window-dressing: a system that is by design unworkable and that privileges massive capital intensive corporate enterprises from outside of Hawaii. Such a system excludes the economic empowerment of native Hawaiians, social justice for the victims of the war on drugs, and continuity of medical access for what the long-standing system of medical cannabis supply which is for the vast majority of patients outside of the regulator dispensary system.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Hawai'i Cannabis Hui,

Jas Anthony

James Anthony  
Chair, Hawai'i Cannabis Hui  
(Hui Ho'okaulike, a Hawaii Nonprofit Corporation)



**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 30**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Margaret Dorsey

**Please enter your phone number**

(571) 268-8594

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

May 23, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #4
- Agenda Item #5

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

[REDACTED]

Aloha Task Force members and thank you for your time,

I am submitting this as testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Patients Union.

I am testifying on the agenda items IV (Discussion and formation of the following Permitted Interaction Groups ("PIGs") + I (Discussion regarding the identification of additional issues for further Task Force investigation)

IV:

We believe that these working groups could benefit patients and caregivers if done correctly. The (PIGs) working groups need to include non-task force experts and stakeholders. If more details such as task force member biographies were available, we could better inform patients seeking information. We get asked a lot about representation for patients and we don't see a fair number of patients or medical professionals in this task force. Our members would like to be represented by licensed patients rather than recreational consumers.

We need to make sure that these groups include 329 patients and those who are directly affected by the issues being researched. We need and deserve a medical program with an intention to help patients and caregivers. The PIGs should include not only 329 patients but Native Hawaiians and victims of the War on Drugs. We request that the members of each of those working groups are listed and publicly available. We believe that if these working groups are made up of only task force members and stakeholders that there will be no positive impact for the medical program or for the people of Hawai'i.

V:

Patients need transparency into the system to know which products are available to treat their symptoms. Knowing which dispensaries have the safest medicine would be helpful to providers and caregivers. Since there are such rigorous standards of regulations that dispensaries must meet, there must be a report that can be made available to the public so we are able to make educated decisions based on results. Having medicinal information on the products provided by the state medical channels would be a great benefit to patients and caregivers. This is something that we are lacking now.

The current direction is confusing for patients trying to achieve basic goals of a medical program. We need to address the issue of when and if Hawai'i legalizes the adult use of Cannabis how are the dispensaries going to keep up with quality supply and demand? How will they ensure that their medicine is readily available and affordable to the influx of adult-use customers vs the patients who are medically relying on the dispensaries to provide for them?

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 29****Email****Name**

Zaza Baker

**Please enter your phone number****Please select the meeting date that you are submitting written testimony for.**

May 23, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #5

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

I am submitting testimony on a task force member's interactions I had with Randy Gonce. Mr. Gonce is known to harass 329 cardholders/medical patients and is doing a disservice for the organization and should be removed from all things related to cannabis. I have copies of the messages he has sent me through social media as evidence and have also seen other messages he has sent to medical card holder. Please remove Randy Gonce from the Hawaii Cannabis Task Force.

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 28****Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Patricia Fallbeck

**Please enter your phone number**

[REDACTED]

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

May 23, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #4

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

#4-D. Medical concerns: I would like to see a wider variety of products that address different levels of pain and anxiety. Perhaps expanding to legal adult use would also lower the price on the medical use products.

##4-E. Adult use and safety: my observation of the typical reaction to the use of cannabis is much more mellowing than that of alcohol. Perhaps the use of cannabis in place of alcohol would help diminish the safety and injury problems we see in our community. Enforcement would be similar but probably less problematic for our officers.

**Dual Use Taskforce - Testimony : Entry # 27****Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Cody Moniz

**Please enter your phone number**

[REDACTED]

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

May 23, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #3
- Agenda Item #4

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

I'm a 329 card holder, and I'm really glad to see progress on legalizing cannabis for recreational use. It's probably going to be complicated, but I'm really glad to see that you guys are looking at how other states implemented their programs before moving forward. I've heard of cannabis glut being caused by too many licenses being issued in other states (in Colorado and California iirc), so it's probably a good idea to limit the number of vendors (3 per district? make sure there is a fair process to allow for competition) and use the taxes for substance abuse and mental health programs, as well as programs to reintegrate non-violent drug offenders. Thank you for your hard work!