

**From:** [webmaster@hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [DOH.OMCCR](mailto:DOH.OMCCR)  
**Subject:** (5/31) WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
**Date:** Monday, June 27, 2022 9:19:39 AM

**Email****Name**

Amber Ramsey

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

June 27, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #2

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

Dual use of cannabis task force

1. People from recreational use states are getting rich & buying Hawaii real estate. Raising our market value and excluding our citizens from home ownership.
2. Founding fathers of America cultivated cannabis without a task force.
3. Alcohol is perpetuating violence in homes and on the road but it is for sale in stores to anybody over 21. My daughters friend was killed by a drunk here on Kaua'i, police let him go after he was caught stealing liquor & he later same night killed a vibrant young beautiful teenage girl.
4. Cannabis control hurts people of color native people and their families; not the rich dispensary owners who are not native people.
5. Cannabis is safer than pills which kill the coral reef found in Anti-depressants but cannabis is not available as easy as pharmaceuticals.
6. Recreational use for 21+ is needed to heal our local economy.
7. Cannabis registered patients should have access not just to alcohol at local stores.
8. Cannabis patients are not violent deranged people & shouldn't be denied gun ownership.
9. Why are rich people the only people legally authorized to control cannabis market.
10. Coffee, green tea, matcha, Yerba mate all have caffeine....why regulate cannabis while alcohol the most dangerous drug to man can be sold by any Joe Shmoe with a liquor liscense.
11. People who don't want to take pills should have options to make, create and use cannabis for all therapeutic aspects and help others as law abiding citizens.
12. My Rabbai said Mary Magdeline washed Jesus's feet with cannabis oil...he is a Jewish Rabbai, who like all Jews say Jesus was a good Jewish boy.
13. Cannabis is part of human culture dating back thousands of years. You are taking an herb that WOMEN could use to make products to help people and taking business that could give poor native people income and granting only rich dispensary owners priveledge to procure a plant which had inumerated access given to all by KeAkua.  
You are taking a plant and giving access only to the rich to reap financial benefits.

Late

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**To:** [DOH.OMCCR](#)  
**Subject:** (5/31) WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
**Date:** Monday, June 27, 2022 12:04:32 PM

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Sue Sisley, MD

**Please enter your phone number**

[REDACTED]

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

June 27, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #3

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

I've served as volunteer medical director for over 40 MJ licenses in 18 states over past 11 years.

Possible Ways to sustain medical MJ:

Most important is to maintain a legal framework for patient co-ops. The prices of the licensed dispensaries are exorbitant and impossible for sick patients to afford. So the most crucial step you can take is guaranteeing that patient co-ops and home grow always have a vibrant fortified legal status within the program in perpetuity. They should never be allowed to be removed by the industry as it continues to grow. The first thing that happens once you convert to recreational ask most of the local license holders will sell their license or just board seats to the larger corporate behemoths (Curaleaf, Verano, Trulieve). Then they terminate their medical staff such as Pharmacists nurses etc that were hired as window dressing for their license app. In fact these medical staff proved to be valuable consultants and should be preserved to ensure medical patients can receive sound advice from operators.

Once Hawaii licenses are transferred to large MSOs, and added to their investor decks, Suddenly you've immediately lost the local control and local pride that your residents insisted was important when you first started the program years ago.

Once these huge corporations come in and consolidate the market under their massive national network, the sick patients of Hawaii will no longer have a voice in the system. Of course it's still a great way for the government to raise some additional taxpayer money

But you will never get the massive tax revenues that the industry promises you especially because there is no bang king allowed so the numbers/accounting are always sketchy. And you will disappoint the patients including the military veterans that were the ones who helped advocate for the program in the first place. The industry is happy to use sick patients especially children and veterans to persuade government officials for the need, and then they are quick to turn their back on these sick patients once the greed and the money demands from shareholders become overly prominent.

So the only way to make sure that patients always have a guaranteed process for the unique products

that are essential to them is by making sure that patient co-ops and home grow is revered and codified in all the laws at the state and local levels.

In AZ still have nearly 200,000 medical patients even after recreational has been in place for over 1.5 years (up to 350,000 patients before recreational marijuana was implemented)

That's because:

AZ has maintained the tax-free status of medical cannabis so it is treated just like any other pharmaceutical— recreational cannabis has nearly 25% tax added when you total the taxes from local/state

We eliminated MMJ card fees for military veterans and terminally ill

We moved to a 2-year card renewal and considering extending to 3 years

We have the best employer protections for medical marijuana patients of any state in the country: None of our AZ patients have been fired unfairly just for testing positive for cannabis on random screening. Employers are required to actively document signs of impairment on the job which has prevented any employer prejudice against medical patients.

The most obvious advantage over recreational is that sick patients are allowed to buy high-dose edibles at low prices. So cancer patients who are used to 1000 mg THC Chocolate bar for \$70 can still buy that price in AZ on the medical side but not on the recreational market.

This is crucial since medical patients are already often on disability and these high potency edibles are totally UNaffordable on the recreational side.

We are launching a huge educational pro PR campaign statewide to update the community about why medical is superior to REC and how it can benefit them

I'm happy to speak further at upcoming meeting.