

From: [REDACTED]
To: DOH.OMCCR
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:28:12 AM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Denise Boisvert

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 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:

Aloha, I am submitting written testimony for the 9/26/22 meeting, agenda item #2 (although that is a guess, I'm not sure where else to put my concern).

I am not against dual use or a person's right to use cannabis. My concern is about the equity of rights for those persons who do not use it and do not want their apartments or houses engulfed by the intensely strong smoke and smell of non-edible usage.

This has happened so many times to my apartment over the years by different neighbors who move in and out around me. Many times the smell was so incredibly strong that it caused me to wake up from a sound sleep in the middle of the night. It takes hours for the smell to diminish and it gives me headaches. I know it has upset many other neighbors with little children as well.

Please include in the legislation some protection for neighbors who, although understanding of both types of use, do not want to be forced to smell it in their personal residences; and should not have to constantly keep their doors and windows closed.

One person's enjoyment or medical treatment should not infringe on the health and well-being of another person, and the results of any usage should be contained within the user's own space. The rights should be equitable.

Thank you for your kind understanding and consideration.

From: [REDACTED]
To: DOH.OMCCR
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:29:52 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

TY Cheng

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 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:

I am submitting written testimony for the 09/26/2022 meeting, agenda item #2 Social Equity Report.

Aloha Green Apothecary, one of the Oahu medical cannabis dispensaries, supports the recommendations of the Social Equity Report in general, especially the priority issuance of cannabis cultivation licenses to local Hawaiian people.

We would comment that the licensing process should be a MERIT based system reviewed by the office of cannabis registry with a higher weighting for local Hawaiian and social equity applicants vs a race based open (first come, first served) licensing system. A MERIT based system would allow greater review by the regulatory body.

The current medical cannabis dispensary program has operated without major incident because of the strict independent review allowed under a MERIT based system.

A MERIT based system would provide the most fairness vs a lottery or a potentially unconstitutional process.

We also suggest adding interim regulations and powers to the Department of Health (current regulating body for medical cannabis dispensary program) to allow for an orderly transition in the interim period before a wholly separate cannabis regulatory office is established. The transition period from a medical program to dual-use program will require time and efforts. Dispensaries should be able to operate and provide medicine as needed within the regulatory powers of the Department of Health.

TY CHENG
President

From: [REDACTED]
To: DOH.OMCCR
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:43:09 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

TY Cheng

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 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 am submitting written testimony for the 09/26/2022 meeting, agenda item #3 Medical Use Report.

Aloha Green Apothecary, one of the Oahu medical cannabis dispensaries, supports the recommendations of the Medical Use Report, especially affordability provisions such as the removal of additional taxes on medical cannabis sales.

We disagree with the recommendations of the Tax Report and comment that any tax amount should be capped at 10% with discretion given to the cannabis office regulator to change taxes as required. A flexible regulator will best be able to tune the program to best compete against the illicit market. A specified timeline for tax increases should not be set in statute. The program should be nimble and change in accordance to market forces.

We comment that medical cannabis sales should not be subject to any taxes including Hawaii Excise Tax similar to prescription medication.

Aloha Green Apoth will finally reach a cultivation economies of scale after 5 years of operation this year. Our recent expansion of our cultivation facilities, coupled with the change of lab testing regulations in April 2022 has led to a greater supply of cannabis to the medical dispensary market.

Aloha Green Apoth is now able to offer \$220 ounces of lab tested dried cannabis flower everyday at our dispensaries and better compete against the illicit and grey markets. We believe in greater patient affordability. The price of medical cannabis should further decrease in Oahu below \$200 an ounce in 2023.

As a cautionary tale, see link to a recent article this week from Canada about over regulation:
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/pot-sector-wants-packaging-changes-financial-relief-from-cannabis-act-review-1.6079592>

Mahalo for the opportunity. I am available to the task force for direct questions or comments.

TY CHENG

President
Aloha Green Holdings Inc.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DOH.OMCCR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 3:36:49 PM

have been a resident of Oahu for almost 30 years. I fully support the dispensaries and want them to be able to stay open and profitable. I believe that the state could benefit from the taxes charged for non-medical Cannabis users. I don't feel that it would overwhelm the system but I do believe that the State of Hawaii could open up more opportunities for other dispensaries in locations where the access is limited.

I believe that this is what will help the State of Hawaii raise money without introducing gambling or a lottery. I feel like Hawaii can handle legalization. Cannabis is better for people than alcohol, which is the cause of a lot of fights and domestic violence.

Debora L Ka'ai

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: webmaster@hawaii.gov
To: DOH.OMCCR
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 2:16:12 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Jayne LeFors

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #2
- Agenda Item #3

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

I am submitting written testimony for the 09/26/2022 meeting, agenda item #II and item #III. Mahalo for allowing me to share my testimony. I am a registered medical cannabis patient in Hawaii. We waited 17 years to have dispensaries opened at which to legally purchase cannabis products, only to have very few options made available at a very high cost. Our people are being harmed by the lack of affordable medicines that are a result of narrow-minded and outdated regulations. For example, I only use edibles and each dispensary has only maybe a half dozen or so types of edibles for sale. These cost about \$32 for a package of 8 pieces, or \$4 each. I recently traveled to California and visited a dispensary, where they had dozens of different types of edibles for sale. I purchased a package of 10 for only \$16, or \$1.60 each. These products are highly regulated and tested to the highest standards. In Hawaii, we only allow locally made products, which means we are paying a much higher cost. This inordinately strict set of rules do not allow for cost savings that are had at a larger scale. This is putting a huge financial burden on patients in Hawaii because of this short-sighted approach to cannabis regulations. I am therefore asking for the full legalization of cannabis for adult use, as well as regulations that encourage the availability and cost savings that can be had by opening our dispensaries to sell nationally manufactured products which are strictly regulated and tested to the highest standards. Mahalo.

From: webmaster@hawaii.gov
To: [DOH.OMCCR](#)
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 6:20:35 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Eric Bjerke

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #1
- Agenda Item #2
- Agenda Item #3
- Agenda Item #4
- Agenda Item #5
- Agenda Item #6
- Agenda Item #7
- Agenda Item #8
- Agenda Item #9
- Agenda Item #10

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

I am submitting written testimony as a retired licensed investigator of 35 yrs. I moved to Hawaii 5 yrs. ago. It was well known from the time I was in high school (80's) on the U.S. east coast that Hawaii had Cannabis so far superior to the rest of the world. Other States are making so much money opening their cannabis markets which in turn helps their States and citizens in multiple ways. I see the amazing potential of Hawaii legalizing cannabis. I often here Mainlanders say ... "Why is Hawaii so behind in the legalization? We thought Hawaii would lead the world in Medicinal Healing!"

Mahalo & Blessing to you ALL

From: webmaster@hawaii.gov
To: [DOH.OMCCR](#)
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:57:23 AM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Timothy Michaels

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 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:

Allowing more smaller growers will provide better crops on the islands. Current strains are seeds that are hybrid and more potent than strains to be found on mainland. Opening the market to grow from seeds that have been in the markets for decades provides a more pure form of cannabis used by people like myself to give relief more to the body for chronic pain suffering. The use is not to get high but find relief so less use of over the counter and prescription medications are not used. Strains of seeds that do this are not available now in Hawaii. If the law changes and cannabis can be used for other than medical, I do hope you will reach out to a businessman in San Francisco who led the way to a more organized effort for store front businesses. The company runs under the name GreenCross. I have no affiliation to his business but as a consumer and advocate for better product, pricing and distribution GreenCross is a leader in the cannabis industry from the beginning, also it is a non profit.
<https://www.thegreencross.org/about-us.html> Mahalo Nui

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DOH.OMCCR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dual use
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 2:33:13 AM

I stand for the people being able to sell to dispensary and other patients. I stand for small businesses like myself to afford medical cannabis and grow it as I want to not the way they tell me

HawaiiGrowCannabisLLC

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: webmaster@hawaii.gov
To: [DOH.OMCCR](#)
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 11:20:49 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Felicidy Phimmasone

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

September 26, 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:

Aloha mai,

My name is Felicidy Phimmasone and I am submitting written testimony for the 9/28/2022 meeting, agenda item #2.

In California (and other parts of America), they talk about "Social Equity" like they are helping the poor, previously incarcerated, or people of color. Still, the reality is that the industry is rich, white, and corporate.

First, I want to thank the task force for taking on the navigation of this frontier to "dual use" cannabis in Hawaii and doing so with diligence.

While I reviewed the task force's Social Equity Committee, which did not include even one Native Hawaiian. It should be noted that out of the 15 task force members, not one is Kanaka Maoli. This is an act of irony in respect to "social equity" on behalf of the task force committees delegations.

I am opposed and say NO to corporate profit-driven plantation-style cannabis farms.

I say YES to small farms owned by Native Hawaiians and local, legacy farmers. These small farms should have a 5K sq. ft canopy cap and promote diversified agriculture.

I say YES to unlimited retail for small farms. Ability to sell direct-to-consumer and to licensed dispensaries.

I say YES to holding licensed corporations accountable to the community for annual reports on environmental impact, best labor practices, and social justice for survivors of the war on drugs. If they aren't helping the community, do not renew their licenses.

I say YES to expunge all criminal records pertaining to possession of, withholding, and use of cannabis.

I say NO to any arrests made in regards to cannabis. The criminalization of cannabis disproportionately disenfranchises Native Hawaiians and ethnic minorities in Hawaii.

I say YES to community reinvestment programs to decriminalize cannabis through education and provide resources for our health care workers especially nurses on how to care for a cannabis patient.

It is a must that we organize now. Bad legalization is worse than no legalization. Native Hawaiians, farmers, and locals affected by the War on Drugs must have a say in policy. We are the Hawaii Cannabis Hui and we do this for the community and Aloha 'Āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and the space to voice my concerns and advocate for cannabis use.

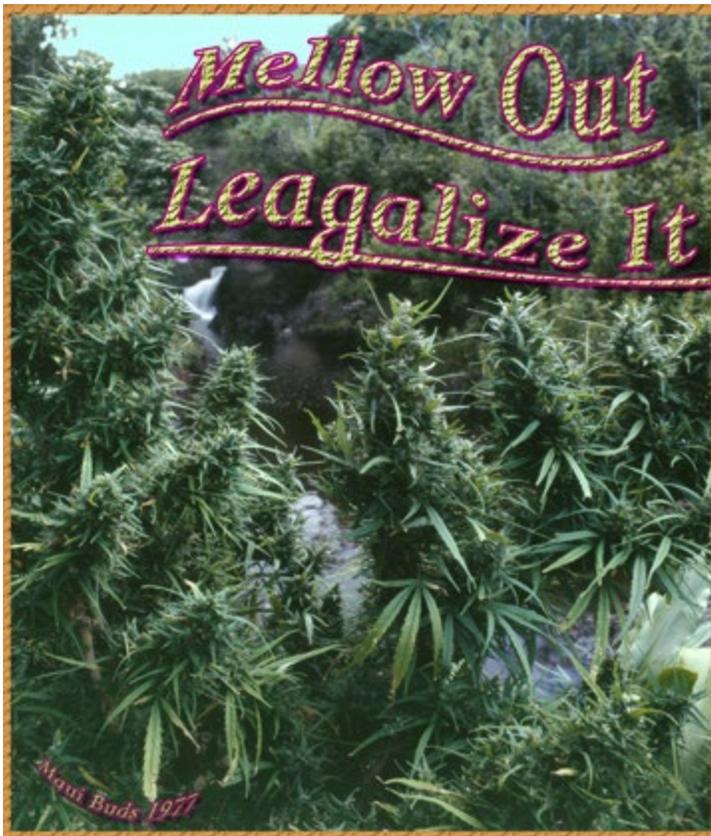
Warmest regards,
Felicidy Phimmasone

From: [REDACTED]
To: DOH.OMCCR
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sept 26 dual use testimony
Date: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:23:52 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.htm](#)

Testifying to the following agenda items in Sept. 26, 2022 Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation hearing :

II. Task Force Member discussion of the investigation findings of the Social Equity Working Group.

III. Task Force Member discussion of the investigation findings of the Medical Use Working Group.



I have been attending and testifying at the [State Office of Medical Cannabis Control & Regulation](#) Task force hearings exploring the development of a dual system program for medical cannabis use and adult cannabis use. I believe the task force is trying hard to come up with good ideas for a dual use system based on an obsolete understanding of cannabis and it's place in Hawaii's future society.

I feel a dual use system will be great once modern science has done the research on the pharmaceutical use of use of cannabis. That has not really occurred because of the federal marijuana prohibition. Right now we know that cannabis can provide varying levels of relief for certain medical conditions in some people in varying doses. The FDA and medical community are far from ready to allow cannabis as a prescription drug. As a 329 cannabis

user I've found that it's medical use is completely up to me. I was given a 329 cannabis card for my back and shoulder pain, But Acetaminophen works better. I also have severe insomnia and restless leg syndrome. The cannabis dispensary gave me their strongest cannabis sleep pills, oil and gummies, they didn't work, so I still have to take oxycodone and Zolpidem. But, smoking a bowl of buds every so often really makes being a kupuna much more enjoyable and greatly improves my quality of life with no side effects. Those are the two main reasons that people use marijuana and why it should be legalized completely!



Weed greatly reduces life stress, helps put our insane world in perspective and mellows folks out without putting them or others in danger. The task force needs to reject the conservative prohibition propaganda that "Good people don't smoke marijuana". Cannabis is NOT alcohol, a narcotic, meth, cocaine, caffeine, tobacco or a prescription medication and should not be treated like them. Many very successful people currently use weed and it has been part of Hawaii's culture for generations. It is time to admit that and allow people who want to use cannabis to buy, grow and sell it responsibly like any other product. It should be tested and taxed like any other agricultural product. It should be labeled organic, pesticide free, untested, etc. Let the growers be responsible for quality and liability of their products as they have been for decades. Cannabis products that have been altered from plant form should be regulated like other processed food and supplement products. Cannabis growers and manufacturers should be held responsible for any misrepresentation or harm their product cause like anyone else. Like alcohol and tobacco, people who use cannabis are responsible for any harm they cause themselves or others. I started smoking pot in Hawaii as an 18 year old in the 1960's and I think that should be the legal age, for everything. If your old enough to be drafted and vote your legal.

"This ain't da mainland" We don't need people and organizations from outside Hawaii telling us how to use weed. Social justice in Hawaii and the mainland are different, we don't need to follow mainland models. The biggest problem legislating cannabis, and many other things, in Hawaii is the government of the United States of America. I say this as someone who remembers Hawaii before it became a state. We need to develop legislation that benefits

HAWAII economically and socially. As we have done for decades, Hawaii needs to produce and sell the best cannabis products in the world. As an original Hawaii grower that was my main goal and I succeeded with much [critical acclaim](#). If we can legalize what we have already done, Hawaii will be blessed. Just legalize it and move forward.



[Sanford Hill](#)
[Maui Tales](#)
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