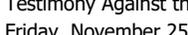


From: 
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Testimony Against the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana
Date: Friday, November 25, 2022 3:36:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Testimony for Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force - Offered by Rep. Gene Ward.docx](#)

Aloha Task Force Members,

Thank you for your many hours of research and deliberations. However, I respectfully disagree with the direction your Task Force appears to be headed in when we convene the 2023 Legislative Session, and that is you will be recommending the outright legalization of recreational marijuana. The attached article by Bobby Cavaco of SHOPO and me lists almost a dozen considerations why you're headed in the wrong direction.

If you've read our article or some of the sources of our data, you will see that the marijuana black market is the elephant in the room of your analysis and the market realities in Hawaii. If California or Colorado are any examples of your research, the Black Market is a wild card you must address for any legislation for Hawaii. Even here, the illicitly grown has become the "market of choice" contrary to what we legislators were told when we passed the Marijuana Dispensaries law. The data says even our medical marijuana card holders are using the black market.

Again, please read our Star Advertiser article and explain or refute its premise that the social costs of legalizing recreational marijuana are greater than any tax revenues will generate, and please don't just hide the data behind a "social equity" label. If anything, marijuana is already available just about everywhere in Hawaii, so when legalized will have little or no effect on its consumption. If you want just to clean the prison records and the incarcerated, that's an entirely different matter than legalizing it and using judiciary concerns as a tacked on concern.

Please put this testimony in your records in opposition to your trajectory or strategy you will be using in the 2023 Legislative Session.

Respectfully,

Rep. Gene Ward



REPRESENTATIVE GENE WARD, Ph. D
MINORITY LEADER EMERITUS

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 25, 2022

Aloha Task Force Members,

Thank you for your many hours of research and deliberations. However, I respectfully disagree with the direction your Task Force appears to be headed in when we convene the 2023 Legislative Session, and that is you will be recommending the outright legalization of recreational marijuana. The attached article by Bobby Cavaco of SHOPO and me lists almost a dozen considerations why you're headed in the wrong direction.

If you've read our article or some of the sources of our data, you will see that the marijuana black market is the elephant in the room of your analysis and the market realities in Hawaii. If California or Colorado are any examples of your research, the Black Market is a wild card you must address for any legislation for Hawaii. Even here, the illicitly grown has become the "market of choice" contrary to what we legislators were told when we passed the Marijuana Dispensaries law. The data says even our medical marijuana card holders are using the black market.

Again, please read our Star Advertiser article below and explain or refute its premise that the social costs of legalizing recreational marijuana are greater than any tax revenues will generate, and please don't just hide the data behind a "social equity" label. If anything, marijuana is already available just about everywhere in Hawaii, so when legalized will have little or no effect on its consumption. If you want just to clean the prison records and the incarcerated, that's an entirely different matter than legalizing it and using judiciary concerns as a tacked on concern.

Please put this testimony in your records in opposition to your trajectory or strategy you will be using in the 2023 Legislative Session.

Respectfully,

Rep. Gene Ward

Star Advertiser

Column: Don't Legalize Recreational Pot In Isles

By: SHOPO President Robert Cavaco

November 6, 2022

When considering the legalization of recreational marijuana, we're afraid the risks — an almost certain increase in crime and the additional harm to Hawaii's youth for example — far outweigh any financial benefit to the state. A puff here and a toke there considered as harmless is grossly misleading, and any windfall tax revenue benefits are highly exaggerated.

The "Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force" created by the Hawaii Legislature in 2021 (Act 169) has been working the past months to grease the skids for the eventual legalization of recreational marijuana for the upcoming session. Its conclusions, though not gushing, are overwhelmingly in favor of taking our state down this dangerous path to more addiction and harm to our state.

But what isn't considered is the tremendous damage it has done in the other states that have legalized recreational cannabis. Consider these facts:

>> It's dangerously addictive to youth. The risk to Hawaii's youth is substantial, and though mentioned in the report it fails to seriously look at what has happened in other states that have legalized marijuana. For example, according to the latest school-based survey from Colorado, marijuana use has risen over the past two years by 21% among young people. The increase particularly affected young teens (15 and younger) who reported a 15% increase. Other findings indicate that marijuana is the most common drug found in the toxicology of teens who die by suicide.

>> It will lead to more crime. Proposition 64, California's 2016 landmark cannabis initiative, sold voters on the promise that a legal market would cripple the drug's outlaw trade, with its associated violence and environmental wreckage. Instead, the law triggered a surge in illegal cannabis California has never witnessed before. Rogue cultivation centers — many run by foreign drug cartels — have popped up all over rural California.

The L.A. Times reports, "Outlaw grows have exacerbated cannabis-related violence, bringing shootouts, robberies, kidnappings and, occasionally, killings. Some surrounded residents say they are afraid to venture onto their own properties." It is now estimated that illegal farms outnumber legal ones, 10 to 1. Don't think Hawaii will escape this market reality.

>> Unrealistic expectation of regulation. Hawaii is ill-equipped to properly regulate the use of recreational cannabis. One look at the sky over Honolulu on New Year's Eve will tell you government can do little to regulate much of anything. And the risk of corruption grows exponentially as the introduction of legalized marijuana in several states has led to international cartels setting up shop with little that can be done to stop them. In California, a county sheriff said, "It's like taking on a gargantuan army with a pocketknife." And mind you, the Honolulu Police Department is short about 300 officers, as is.

>> Black-market weed outsells state-sanctioned dispensaries. As in California, the latest data in Hawaii indicates that the eight cannabis dispensaries that were set up to control the safety and quality of marijuana to users has fallen far short of its goals. Dispensaries complain of the stringent government regulations that have made their prices unable to compete with black-market marijuana, which is now the supplier of choice for most marijuana users.

An additional danger has entered this market with the recent rise of fentanyl-laced drugs, including marijuana. So the black market, though cheaper, is a potential killing field that the dispensaries with its guaranteed safe marijuana can't compete with. More deaths from marijuana smoking are thus expected in Hawaii if the Legislature legalizes recreational marijuana in 2023.

Our police officers know first-hand the dangers outlined above of legalizing recreational marijuana because they have seen too many ruined families, drugged drivers, lethargic youth without ambition, and crimes committed to support the buying and the selling of the weed.

It's up to each of us to protect our keiki, and to make sure recreational marijuana legalization doesn't pass in 2023.

State Rep. Gene Ward contributed to this piece.



PREMIERING 7:30PM ET: Ben Cort: The Truth About the Marijuana Industry and the Terrifying Effects of High-Potency THC

https://www.theepochtimes.com/ben-cort-the-truth-about-the-marijuana-industry-and-the-terrifying-effects-of-high-potency-thc-4878149.html?utm_source=NS_ATLNewsletter&src_src=NS_ATLNewsletter&utm_campaign=2022-11-22&src_cmp=2022-11-22&utm_medium=email&est=PbzrnKkdyToCqs3f3ZZj0oCXdpGxatDxVnvzQwXuQuphHe4ke567JDx2UwtRkeQyWK5q

“10 years ago...the idea of physical addiction to cannabis was absolutely laughable. That people would be having psychotic episodes, and then psychotic breaks, just from THC? It was unfathomable.”

Ben Cort is the CEO of the Foundry Treatment Center and author of “Weed, Inc.: The Truth About the Pot Lobby, THC, and the Commercial Marijuana Industry.”

“If one pictures their body as the cannabis plant, originally THC was about the size of our big toe,” says Cort. “By the mid 2000s [it] was about up to our knee, and now we have THC-available products that are passed our eyes.”

Cort is now fighting back against a multi-billion dollar industry that he says turned a once natural, relatively harmless plant, into a highly addictive, psychosis-inducing narcotic.

“There are pesticides that we find regularly inside of cannabis plants that are not safe for topical animal use, and this is being inhaled by human beings,” says Cort.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Sunday, November 27, 2022 10:48:38 AM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

James Anthony

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

November 28, 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 write on behalf of the Hawaii Cannabis Hui--Hawaii's only nonprofit citizen group exclusively dedicated to getting cannabis legalization right by prioritizing social equity before all other business interests. Though this testimony is for the final meeting 11/28/22, agenda item 2, it also incorporates by reference the Hui's testimony at the 9/19/22 meeting agenda item 2 on Social Equity.

The Hui appreciates the efforts of the Task Force members of the Social Equity working group. We appreciate the efforts they made to hold public meetings--even though public attendance was poor to non-existent due to time constraints.

The Hui did everything we could to support turnout. In some cases, Moloka'i certainly, lack of turnout itself was a clear message that the existing medical collective and cooperative model is working fine and stakeholders don't see a need for legalization following the failed model of California and the other states.

We appreciate the work that went into the long thoughtful report. Many of its ideas would be worthy additions to a functional state regulatory system that prioritized social equity over all other business concerns.

However, we are also glad to see that the Task Force is taking this controversial issue seriously and carefully debating and deliberating on how to best present its suggestions as to how the Legislature might best incorporate it into this important issue of the commercialization (often misleadingly referred to as "legalization") of cannabis.

The Hui supports the Task Force in creatively combining the approaches suggested by Ms. Nakata, Mr. Halydier, and Ms. Gorman: a new social equity task force or working group is warranted--and the Legislature should have the benefit of the work done by the Working Group.

The Task Force should be absolutely clear in its recommendations on three points:

1) Any and all commercialization/legalization legislation MUST BE referred to the Hawaiian Affairs Committees of both houses.

2) DECRIMINALIZATION IS A SEPARATE AND PRIORITY ISSUE. DECRIM FIRST! DECRIM NOW!

3) No adult use commercialization (aka "legalization") legislation should proceed unless in a framework that prioritizes a market structure that serves small business (and discourages a new plantation economy in cannabis), and thus inherently serves social equity considerations, implicitly as well as explicitly.

Respectfully submitted,

James Anthony
Chair, Hawaii Cannabis Hui

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 3:35:48 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Denise Boisvert

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

November 28, 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:

Aloha, I am submitting written testimony for the 11/28/22 meeting, agenda items #2&3 (although that is a guess, I'm not sure where else to put my concern; I don't even see where my concerns are being addressed).

Although I am not against dual use or a person's right to use cannabis, I would like to defend the rights of persons who do not want the residual effects of a drug forced into their noses, mouths, and lungs. 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.

I also know people who have lived next to a house where many plants were grown. The thick resinous smell, especially on hot days, was so strong that it went into their house and overwhelmed their children. 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: [REDACTED]
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 1:33:29 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Michael wells

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

November 28, 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:

wasnt sure what agenda items were so checked them all. I think the importnt thing is to learn the lessons from CA, CO and NOT tax so high that a blackmarket continues to undercut legal grows and small growers can compete w big industrial \$. And to be sure that whatever tax \$ is collected goes to schools, roads, drug education and limits use to adults not minors on all islands rather than just Oahu. What we dont need is Hawaii becoming a tourist Mecca 4 users andits clear from other states that prices will drop and blackmarket grows will flourish if taxed too high...thank u. mw

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SLH 2021 Act 169
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 10:49:55 AM

I am in support of legislation for Cannabis in the state of Hawaii.
I had read that the last meeting didn't see the monetary benefits of a program for legalization.
Other states have opened up their medical programs to adults of age.
It will pay for itself and show its profitability. I'm a medical Cannabis registered user for my chronic pain.

We really need your kokua in bringing legislation to Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa

Debora L Kaai
Medical Cannabis User 5 years

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 10:52:03 AM
Attachments: [text_0.txt](#)

I am concerned about the oversight and quality of the product if it is not made in medical facility.

Testimony

Of Jordan Hollister on the issue of Cannabis Sativa in Hawaii

I would like to address item II on the agenda regarding the Task Force Social Equity Recommendations. In my opinion the medical legalization here in Hawaii was anything but equal. With only a dozen licenses for dispensaries released in the State and pre-requisites of having \$1M in the bank, that excludes like 95% of the population. On a National level 90% of Cannabis industry Executives are White, and the larger companies have been swallowing the small. I agree with Teri Gorman that Hawaii's situation is unique. 40% of convicted felons are Native Hawaiians despite comprising only 20% of the population, many due to cannabis laws. I also think it would be great to have a Network of Native Hawaiian entities and organizations, perhaps it could put more houses on Hawaiian Home Lands and put people in those houses and off the list. I had the privilege of managing a dispensary in Fairbanks Alaska in the beginning of the legalization recreationally and thought the way the State handled it was great, secure, brought in a lot of money, more tourists, more jobs, crime reduction. I think the Native people of Hawaii should have a chance to take advantage of the opportunity, at the least for a period to be fair. If done right, it could help many lives and put Hawaiian people back on Hawaiian Land, the last bit of land meant for the people and not the malls. Although I get it, DHHL needs to make money to help the people. This might give the people a chance to help themselves.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 5:47:55 PM

Email

[REDACTED]

Name

Penelope Hazzard

Please enter your phone number

[REDACTED]

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

November 28, 2022

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

- Agenda Item #1
- Agenda Item #2
- Agenda Item #3

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

Testimony

I am supporting all of the above agenda items relating to cannabis legislative action, decriminalizing cannabis, pardoning those convicting of its use, and removing Hawaii from the federal penalties.



Akamai Cannabis Consulting

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
Honolulu, HI 96816

DUAL USE OF CANNABIS TASK FORCE

MEETING 11: November 28, 2022
FINAL MEETING

TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEM III
Clifton Otto, MD

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

III. Discussion and Decision-Making on Additional Recommendations:

The White House has finally [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana.

And our Legislature has unanimously expressed its [will](#) to resolve the current situation with federal Schedule I.

It's time for the State to act.

Please vote to add the following [recommendation](#) by task force member Teri Gorman to the Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force Final Report:

“The State should take action to stop federal Schedule I from being applied to Hawaii’s medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals, and licensees.”

This task force needs to send a clear message to the incoming administration that this issue must be addressed.

Aloha.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 8:46:44 AM

Aloha!

I support the Agenda item 111 recommendation by Teri Gorman:

" Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii's registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees."

Respectfully,
Greg

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 8:55:49 AM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

Thank you,
Kiana

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:26:42 AM

Yes, I support rec. pot

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony.
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:28:04 AM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Without further agenda, and private and confidential,

Best regards,



Mote Reh
(Jaime Reh Aguirre de Carcer)



From:

To:

Date:

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 10:32:42 AM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to cannabis, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

Thank you.

Paul Noguchi

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 11:52:27 AM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cannabis Task Force
Date: Friday, November 25, 2022 12:36:07 PM

Subject: Testimony

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

I am also in favor of making cannabis recreational for adults over 21. It will be easier to control sales, especially to minors. I’ll guaranty it’s easier for minors to get a bag of illegal weed, than a beer. And the tax revenue won’t hurt.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Friday, November 25, 2022 6:24:32 AM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,
Karl Malivuk

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 24, 2022 9:49:10 AM

Subject: Testimony

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

Deborah Mawhar, Nuuanu

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:20:27 PM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

[Private and Confidential]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 12:35:43 PM

I support the following Agenda item III recommendation by Teri Gorman:

“Recommend the State of Hawaii take direct action to stop Federal Schedule 1 classification of cannabis from being applied to Hawaii’s registered medical cannabis patients, certifying medical professionals and state licensees.”

Please vote to add this recommendation to the task force final report. Now that the White House has [admitted](#) that federal Schedule I is a failed approach to marijuana, there is no reason why the State should wait any longer to resolve this issue.

Brendan Conboy

Makawao, HI