

## Executive Order No. 24-06, Guidance Regarding Medical Cannabis Primary Caregivers

On December 30, 2024, Governor Josh Green signed Executive Order No. 24-06, Guidance Regarding Medical Cannabis Primary Caregivers. The executive order was signed in response to the HRS §329-130(a) requirement that, after December 31, 2024, no primary caregiver shall be authorized to cultivate cannabis for any qualifying patient, unless the patient is a minor or resides on a island without a licensed dispensary.

In an effort to reduce negative health outcomes as a result of primary caregivers' authority to cultivate for qualifying patients, Governor Green, through the executive order:

- Acknowledges that primary caregivers were granted the authority to cultivate up to ten cannabis plants because qualifying patients with a debilitating medical condition may not be able to cultivate cannabis themselves;
- Acknowledges that the expiration of the authority of a primary caregiver to cultivate cannabis for a qualifying patient may lead to negative health outcomes for some qualifying patients;
- States that the Department of Health Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation (OMCCR) has limited resources to investigate and enforce minor violations of HRS Ch. 329, part IX, concerning primary caregivers;
- Orders OMCCR to de-prioritize investigation of minor violations of HRS Ch. 329, part IX, which would include a primary caregiver cultivating an "adequate supply" of cannabis for one qualifying patient.

The executive order allows primary caregivers to continue performing their duties without fear of Department of Health enforcement action, so long as they do not commit other significant violations of HRS Ch. 329, part IX.

Patients submitting new or renewal applications to OMCCR will be unable to officially designate a primary caregiver to cultivate cannabis on their behalf beginning January 1, 2025. The Department of Health has drafted proposed legislation for the 2025 legislative session, which, if passed, will ensure that primary caregivers may continue to cultivate for their designated patients.

[Link to Executive Order](#)

If you have questions, please call 808-733-2177 or email [medicalcannabis@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:medicalcannabis@doh.hawaii.gov).