

### **Patient Advisory: Beware of Fraudulent Certification Services**

We want to make you aware that our office has received reports of businesses falsely posing as certifying medical providers. These individuals are collecting payments from patients for medical cannabis certifications but are not submitting the required applications—and, in many cases, are not returning the money.

To protect yourself:

- Always verify that a medical provider is registered with our office and authorized to certify patients. You can contact us directly for confirmation.
- Always request a receipt for any payments you make.
- Use secure payment methods (e.g., credit cards) instead of cash whenever possible.

If you believe you have been a victim of this type of scam, please report it to our office as well as the [DCCA Office of Consumer Protection](#).

Your safety and trust are important to us. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [medicalcannabis@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:medicalcannabis@doh.hawaii.gov) or (808) 733-2177 if you have any questions or need assistance.