

# Medical Cannabis UPDATE

*Ensuring Hawaii's qualified patients have access to safe medical cannabis products through an efficient system of responsible, licensed dispensaries*

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## *Fourth Dispensary for Hawai'i*

# New Licensed Dispensary Now Open

Registered medical cannabis patients and caregivers now have another licensed dispensary from which to purchase medical cannabis. Noa Botanicals in Honolulu officially opened on Oct. 11, 2017.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health gave Mānoa Botanicals LLC approval to open Noa Botanicals after the dispensary met all of its laboratory testing requirements and passed its final onsite inspection.


Noa Botanicals is the fourth licensed medical cannabis dispensary in the state and the second one on O'ahu.

"We are continuing to closely work with both the licensed dispensaries and private laboratories in each of the counties to help them meet all of the requirements as efficiently as possible without compromising product or patient safety," said **Keith Ridley**, who oversees the medical cannabis dispensary program for the Hawaii State Department of Health.

The other licensed retail centers are:

- Maui Grown Therapies, located at 44 Pa'a Street in Kahului, Maui, which was the first licensed dispensary in Hawai'i to receive a notice to proceed on Aug. 8, 2017;

- Aloha Green, in the Interstate Building at 1314 South King Street in Honolulu, received its notice to proceed on Aug. 9, 2017; and
- Pono Life Sciences Maui LLC, at 415 Dairy Road in Kahului, Maui, was the second Maui dispensary to receive a notice to proceed on Sept. 29, 2017.

Registered patients and their caregivers may purchase up to four ounces of medical cannabis during a 15 consecutive day period and purchase a maximum of eight ounces over a 30 consecutive day period. All use of medical cannabis must be on private property and may not be used in a car while on the road, at work, at the beach, on hiking trails, or in any other public space. 

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## New Certified Laboratory Now in Operation

Pharmlab Hawaii LLC, a private independent laboratory on Maui, was given the green light from the Hawaii State Department of Health to begin operations on October 17, 2017.

"With a certified laboratory now on Maui, dispensaries will no longer have to transport cannabis samples to Oahu for testing, which could potentially reduce costs and allow for faster approval time," said **Wanda Chang**, environmental health analytic services branch chief with the Hawaii State Department of Health.

Pharmlab Hawaii is the second laboratory to receive approval for medical cannabis testing. The

first laboratory, Steep Hill Hawaii, received its provisional certificate in July.

The Department of Health anticipates that a third company, Oahu-based Aeos Labs, which is operated by Clinical Labs of Hawaii, could be ready for an on-site inspection by January 2018.

To receive certification, a laboratory must submit validation studies to demonstrate it is capable of conducting testing with consistent and accurate results. Certification allows a laboratory to conduct specific tests required to ensure the safety of products sold to registered patients in Hawaii. 