



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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### **Department of Health amends administrative rules to allow pre-rolled cannabis flower products**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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HONOLULU – On March 27, 2024, Governor Green approved amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-850 (Interim Rules) Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to add pre-rolled cannabis flower products, also known as “pre-rolls,” as a manufactured cannabis product which may be produced and dispensed through licensed medical cannabis dispensaries in the state. These changes are made in accordance with Act 108 SLH 2023 and become effective on April 5, 2024.

Addition of pre-rolls to the list of allowed products benefits medical cannabis patients with limited manual dexterity and for whom inhalation is the most effective route of delivery. However, because many of the same cancer-causing compounds in tobacco smoke are also found in burning cannabis, smoking of cannabis is harmful, and a safer alternative is using a vaporizer. Patients also have access to other manufactured cannabis products, including edible products, ointments and lotions, through the 24 licensed dispensary retail locations across the state.

With the aim of protecting the health and safety of medical cannabis patients and the public, the amendments specify manufacturing standards for pre-rolls. No other ingredients, including kief, hashish or any other concentrate, may be added to the pre-rolls. The rolling paper and filters must also be plain and unbleached. Furthermore, the

amendments establish that tobacco may not be used as an ingredient in any manufactured cannabis product.

While the benefit of inhaling cannabis may exceed the harm associated with smoking for some patients, smoking of cannabis negatively impacts the health of the public and Hawai'i's Smoke-Free Laws apply directly to smoking or vaping cannabis, whether medicinal or not. Secondhand smoke is harmful, and cannabis should never be smoked near infants, children, or pregnant women.

For more information on medical cannabis or the program's services and activities, call 808-733-2177 or visit <https://health.hawaii.gov/medicalcannabis/>.

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