



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
March 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

by
Vassilis L. Syrmos
Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i

HB 2707 HD1 – RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the opportunity to be a part of this emerging medical marijuana distribution system and to assure that the dispensed products are accurately labeled and free of contaminants in accordance with laboratory standards developed and administered by the Department of Health. UH also sees a role to contribute to research on the health outcomes for medical marijuana users.

Because marijuana is still considered illegal under federal law, the University of Hawai'i must comply with federal laws and regulations, particularly with respect to satisfying any applicable conditions that allow UH to receive certain federal grant or research funds. See, e.g., Drug-Free Workplace regulations.

The University of Hawai'i has formed a Medical Marijuana Task Force to investigate how other universities in states with legalized medical marijuana are dealing with similar issues, and how UH may engage in the services contemplated by this measure while complying with federal laws and regulations. The task force comprises researchers from John A. Burns School of Medicine, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, UH Cancer Center, UH Hilo's Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy and Chaminade University.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.