



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Judiciary & Labor and Ways & Means
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by
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HB 2707 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the effort by the legislature to include the University in the state's emerging medical marijuana distribution system to help assure that the dispensed products are in accordance with laboratory standards developed and administered by the Department of Health. The University also appreciates the legislature's intent to help create an additional revenue stream for UH as a result of the services provided under this measure.

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.

In response to this issue, UH 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 it 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.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure, but because of its complexity, more time is required to study and investigate the possible consequences on the institution by engaging in medical marijuana related activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.