



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
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By
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and
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HB 2710 – RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2710 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. This measure would appropriate funds to allow the John A. Burns School of Medicine to monitor and conduct research regarding the efficacy of medical marijuana dispensaries in the State and related health outcomes and safety issues.

The School's basic mission is to teach and train high-quality physicians, biomedical scientists, and allied health workers for Hawai'i and the Pacific. Advanced medical and biomedical research at JABSOM has received international recognition for pioneering work in a number of fields. Its work on the better understanding of Hansen's Disease is part of Hawai'i's legacy to the world. More recently, it has made contributions in AIDS, in Kawasaki's Disease, and the epidemiology of heart disease. It is also affiliated with the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. The School's primary investigative focus over the decades has been in those areas for which it is ideally qualified by its diverse population: to improve the health of ethnic groups, many of whom are otherwise underrepresented in health research, and to conduct research with those groups in a culturally relevant manner.

With the implementation of the medical marijuana dispensary program in the State, detailed monitoring and research from a medical perspective conducted by an independent scholarly body would provide valuable insight into the program and may enhance the success of the dispensary system. The University of Hawai'i is committed to working with the Department of Health and other partners for the benefit of our communities in this emerging field.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.