



Akamai Cannabis Consulting

Clifton Otto, MD

Cannabinoid Medicine Specialist

Confidential Certification & Registration

By appointment: **808-233-8267**



Dr. Otto attended New York Medical College, in Valhalla, NY, and completed his Transitional Internship and Ophthalmology Residency at Madigan Army Medical Center, in Tacoma, WA, before being forward deployed with the U.S. Army at Camp Zama, Japan, as a General Ophthalmologist, with duty at Yokosuka Naval Hospital. Following Honorable Discharge from the Army, Dr. Otto returned to Hawaii and completed a Medical Retina fellowship at the Retina Institute of Hawaii, specializing in the treatment of Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy.

Dr. Otto is also a certifying physician for Hawaii's Medical Cannabis Program and is certified as a Cannabinoid Medicine Specialist by the American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine. Dr. Otto was also a member of the Hawaii Dispensary Task Force and continues to advocate for improvements in patient safety and protection of the state authorized medical use of cannabis in Hawaii. Before medical school, Dr. Otto worked in the Scheuer Research Group at the University of Hawaii in Manoa, isolating bioactive compounds from marine organisms, and at Wyeth-Ayerst Labs in New York, performing chemical synthesis of chemotherapy reference standards. Dr. Otto also holds a B.A. and M.S.Ed. from Sarah Lawrence College.

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with plenty of public metered
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Suite 304**

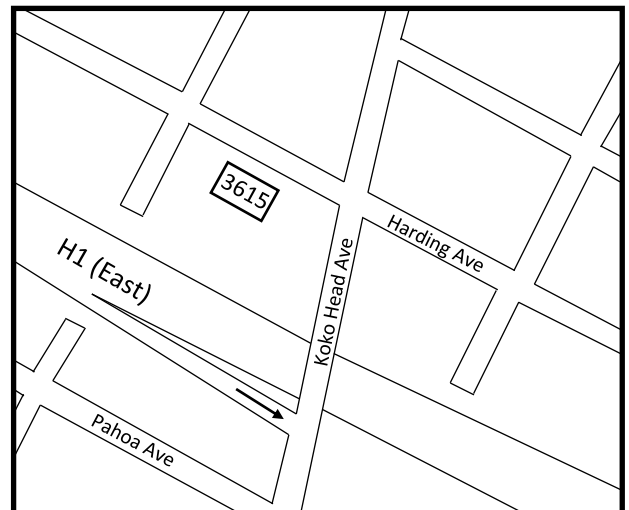
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This handout is available at:

cannabishealthcarehawaii.com/referrals

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BACKGROUND



The State of Hawaii, under its constitutional authority to decide how controlled substances are used within the state, decided on June 14, 2000 to authorize the medical use of cannabis in Hawaii. Unfortunately, the State never discussed this decision with the federal government, which resulted in a conflict between the federal regulation of marijuana and the state authorized medical use of cannabis in Hawaii, which we are still dealing with twenty-three years later.

Hawaii’s original Medical Use of Cannabis bill was introduced into the state legislature in 1999 and stated that “allowing the medical use of marijuana could promote Hawaii as being an international center for medical treatment and research”. The goal of Dr. Otto’s work over the past twelve years has been to end the conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana so that we can make this vision a reality and stop the discrimination that our patients are being subjected to every day as federal criminals.

There is still a lot of work that needs to be done in this area, including important research that could be performed within the UH System, especially at state-of-the-art research facilities like the UH Cancer Center, which is refusing to do any kind of cannabis research for fear of losing federal funding if they participate in Cannabis research.

Patients have the right to decide what happens to their bodies, which is protected under the Hawaii Patient Bill of Rights. This includes the right of patients to engage in self-treatment with cannabis that has been authorized by the state for personal medical use under the supervision of a certifying provider.



THE PROCESS



Enrolling in Hawaii’s Medical Cannabis Program requires a few important steps. The first step is to identify a certifying physician or APRN who is willing to perform your certification evaluation. It’s important to know the name of this provider before completing the online Registration Application because you put this person’s name on the first page of the online application. This will ensure that after you submit your online application it goes to the correct provider.

Completing an online registration application involves logging into DOH’s website which requires having an eHawaii.gov account. The email and password associated with your eHawaii.gov account are used to log into the DOH website where a new instate registration application can be initiated. At the same time, you will need to schedule a Certification Evaluation appointment with a certifying provider. Hopefully, your online registration application can be submitted to your provider before your certification evaluation, so that at the time of the evaluation your certifying provider can submit your application to DOH, which will increase the chances for fast registration approval.

Once your application is submitted to DOH, it usually takes about a week to get an approval. DOH will send you an email saying that your registration has been approved, and then you can go back into your DOH account and download an electronic copy of your registration card. Written Certification is what authorizes patients to engage in the medical use of cannabis, but a registration card is required to grow cannabis for personal medical use and to gain access to a dispensary.



WHAT TO EXPECT



The Certification Evaluation is much more than just a rubber stamp to get a registration card. It is the beginning of a provider-patient relationship that is required under state law to ensure that patients have ongoing supervision for the medical use of cannabis. Ideally, the provider performing your certification evaluation is someone who specializes in Cannabinoid Medicine. For a physician, this would mean someone who has obtained certification as a Cannabinoid Medicine Specialist from a national certifying organization such as the American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine (AACM). Certification usually requires time in practice as a cannabinoid medicine clinician, attending accredited conferences that award Continuing Medical Education credits in Cannabinoid Medicine, and passing an examination.

Certifying Providers are not prescribing or recommending the medical use of cannabis. This cannot and should not be done until there is an FDA-approved botanical cannabis drug product available in our pharmacies. In the meantime, providers can certify patients who have certain qualifying conditions that have been set by the state and discuss how to use cannabis safely and effectively within the confidential provider-patient relationship that is required under state law.

A new patient certification evaluation should last at least 30 minutes and should include a review of applicable state medical cannabis laws, a drug interaction review, suggestions for product selection and starting dosages for your qualifying condition(s), and an official copy of your Written Certification, which proves that you’ve been certified under state law.