



Akamai Cannabis Clinic
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CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL 477
HOUSE DRAFT 2 SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO CANNABIS
Clifton Otto, MD
April 16, 2021

Dear HB477 HD2 SD2 Conferees,

I am very concerned about this measure, which started out as a way for dispensaries to overcome their current production difficulties by way of interisland wholesaling, and turned into an attack on patient grow sites that are filling an [important need](#) that dispensaries cannot meet under the current vertically integrated system.

I can tell you that if the current limitation on patient growing becomes law, there will likely be widespread patient violations and outrage against the dispensaries.

I do not believe that department understaffing should be used as an excuse for limiting patient cultivation. Certainly, there must be other ways to ensure that the program satisfies its purpose of authorizing patients to have uninterrupted access to an allowable supply of cannabis medicine while also providing proper regulatory oversight.

In addition, the current restriction on the interisland transport of cannabis by dispensaries for wholesaling purposes destroys the very intent of this bill, which was to allow a dispensary with production capacity on one island to transport to another island where production cannot meet demand, which could reduce cost and improve product quality and selection for patients.

For these reasons, it may be prudent to refrain from agreeing on this measure until the issues related to department staffing and the conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana can be addressed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Aloha,

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