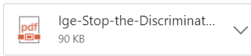


To: You



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

David Y. Ige
GOVERNOR

June 25, 2021

Dr. Clifton Otto M.D.
3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
Honolulu, HI 96816 United States
cliftonotto@hotmail.com

Dear Dr. Otto:

Thank you for your recent message to Governor Ige requesting clarification on his position on cannabis reform, and requesting a public hearing with Director Libby Char concerning HCR132. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the Department of Health (DOH) for follow-up.

The DOH will be contacting you directly, as appropriate.

Cannabis is still listed federally as a Schedule I drug, and this complicates the state's evaluation of policies to decriminalize or legalize the use of cannabis in Hawai'i. In fact, the governor has said he does not support recreational use of marijuana in Hawai'i at this time because of its designation as a Schedule I drug by the federal government.

Policy making on this topic generally falls into two categories that often overlap: medical use and recreational use. The governor believes that the state has a robust and effective system for managing and regulating cannabis for medical use. You can find out more about Hawai'i's medical cannabis rules and processes at <http://health.hawaii.gov/medicalcannabis/>. The system has been developed through very careful and deliberate evaluation, and he is proud of the work that has been done to establish the program.

Policy development related to recreational use of cannabis needs the same careful, deliberate consideration and action. Hawai'i will continue to learn from other states, particularly in recognizing their challenges, problems and solutions on this issue. This means addressing each facet of this complicated issue with as much information as we can gather and making the right choice for the right reasons. The governor will continue to carefully review every policy option or legislative bill brought before him, so that any policy implemented is clear, balanced and effective.

With warmest regards,

**Office of the Governor
State of Hawai'i**