



Akamai Cannabis Clinic
3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304
Honolulu, HI 96816

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The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 203
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

MOVING OMCCR TO EHA

Dear Senator Keohokalole,

I wanted to share with you a [letter](#) that I recently sent to Director Char at the Department of Health ([DOH](#)) regarding a proposal that the Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation (OMCCR) be moved from Health Resources Administration ([HRA](#)) to Environmental Health Administration ([EHA](#)) in order to resolve the department's current regulatory deficiencies.

The reason for arriving at this proposal is that EHA contains the Sanitation Branch ([Food Safety Branch](#)), which is fully capable of taking on the duty of regulating dispensaries and was in the middle of doing so just before OMCCR was created and placed under HRA.

I believe that the Legislature erred in 2018 when it passed [HB2742](#) because HRA does not have the resources or the expertise necessary to regulate dispensaries in a manner that can ensure dispensary compliance and protect patient health and safety. Perhaps the current situation can be corrected with the following statutory amendment:

§329D-2.5 Office of medical cannabis control and regulation; established; duties. (a) There is established within the department the office of medical cannabis control and regulation, which shall report to the deputy director of [~~health resources administration~~] environmental health administration.

I sincerely hope that this matter can be address during the upcoming Session. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important health issue.

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD
cliftonotto@hotmail.com
808-233-8267.