



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

January 28, 2021

The Honorable Sylvia Luke
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Request for Advice on HB985

Dear Representative Luke,

I am writing to you about [HB985](#) – Relating to the Office of Medical Cannabis Control and Regulation (OMCCR), which was recently introduced by the Speaker probably at the request of the Department of Health (DOH). I have some concerns about this bill and was hoping to get your advice on the best way to proceed.

HB985 would increase the fee for patient registration under OMCCR's Registry Program from \$35 to \$45 beginning in FY 2022. At 30K patients, that would be an increase of \$300K in additional annual revenue going into the medical cannabis registry and regulation special fund that was established by [HRS 321-30.1](#).

Before approving HB985, it may be prudent for the Legislature, if it hasn't already done so, to examine the medical cannabis registry and dispensary program sub-accounts of this special fund to see exactly how the monies in these accounts have been used since the inception of OMCCR in [2018](#).

For the past two years the medical cannabis registry program sub-account should have been receiving a registration fee of \$38.50 per patient per year, which, at roughly 30K patients, comes out to an annual revenue of about \$1.1M. From a patient safety perspective, I would like to know how this money has been used because of the [documented](#) history of inadequate regulatory oversight by OMCCR.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. I look forward to your thoughts.

Aloha,

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