



**Akamai Cannabis Clinic**  
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January 31, 2021

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 432  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### **DOE POSITION ON FEDERAL EXEMPTION**

Dear Representative Nakashima,

I thought you would appreciate seeing my recent correspondence with the Department of Education (DOE), which includes my [initial letter](#) to Superintendent Kishimoto, a recent [reply](#) from DOE's Risk Manager, and my [response](#).

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that our state departments and agencies are controlled by the Office of the Attorney General (AG) since they must rely upon and are expected to follow legal guidance from this office. Unfortunately, in the case of the state authorized use of cannabis, this means following advice that does not recognize the State's sovereign authority to decide how controlled substances are used within the state.

I suspect this position will also be reflected in recommendations that are forthcoming from the AG's Recreational Use Working Group.

Nonetheless, I sincerely appreciate your willingness to support a solution that can help end the current conflict with the federal regulation of marijuana.

It will be interesting to see how the assigned committees respond to federal exemption bills, such as [HB668](#), this Session. Should these Chairs decide that it is not worth the effort to pursue such legislation, then I will have a resolution proposal ready.

Thank you for all your help with this important issue.

Aloha,

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