



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

December 19, 2020

The Honorable Max N. Otani  
Director, Department of Public Safety  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96814

### **PAROLING POLICY ON MEDICAL CANNABIS**

Dear Director Otani,

I am writing to you regarding the issue of patients who are under Department of Public Safety (PSD) paroling authority being allowed to engage in the state authorized use of cannabis for medical purposes. There seems to be a good deal of variability in how Parole Officers (POs) are interpreting the right of parolees to engage in such use.

I have some patients who tell me that their PO has no problem with them using medical cannabis as long as they are certified and registered in accordance with state law, other patients who say they have to first demonstrate to their PO that all other approved medical treatment options have been exhausted before they can become registered patients, which our Medical Use of Cannabis Act does not require, and still other patients who report that their PO denies them the option of registering with our Medical Cannabis Program altogether for no apparent reason.

I realize that this is a complex issue for the department because of the refusal of our state Executive branch to help resolve the conflict between the federal regulation of marijuana and the state authorized use of cannabis for medical purposes in Hawaii, but I believe that the department needs to have an established policy on the medical use of cannabis that is applied uniformly to all parolees.

Perhaps such a policy already exists. If so, it might be very helpful to make this policy available to parolees so that they can explore this topic with their PO. In either case, may I please discuss this matter further by phone or video-conference with one of your staff.

Thank you for considering this request. Happy Safe Holidays !

Aloha,

Clifton Otto, MD  
[cliftonotto@hotmail.com](mailto:cliftonotto@hotmail.com)  
808-233-8267.