



**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice-Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
2:00 PM, Room 329

RE: **SB3335 SD2 HD1** Cannabis Legalization - **Support ONLY w/Amendments**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. **We would support SB3335 SD2 HD1 only with the following amendments:**

- All the proposed changes contained within the testimony submitted by the Hawaii Alliance for Cannabis Reform that will ensure a regulatory system with robust social equity and expungement provisions.
- Ensure cannabis cultivation subsidizes the high costs of growing food in Hawaii by issuing commercial grow permits for non-medical cannabis first to farmers who are already growing produce for local consumption: for example, if an acre of non-medical cannabis results in \$1M profit a year, the farmer can use those profits to underwrite the costs of labor, land and water to grow produce for local consumption on 9 acres of land. As more grow permits are issued maintain the requisite ratio of cannabis to produce for local consumption.
- Allow local produce farmers, with permits to grow non-medical cannabis, to build and cite small, non-permanent dwellings for farmers close to their crops, including on state ag land; these non-permanent dwellings should have hygienically maintained toilets and potable water in appropriate proximity.
- Allow non-commercial "care growers", individuals and cooperatives, to continue growing cannabis for patients who do not have the ability to grow their own medicine and allow them to be reimbursed for related expenditures.

We agree with the statements made by Governor Green on Hawaii News Now on February 6, 2024:

"I don't think the sky would fall, honestly, if marijuana were legalized. . . . I also have some thoughts that marijuana might blunt the effect, if you will, of people on these heavy drugs, these horrible drugs. . . . People are far less violent. They are much hungrier, but they—aside from the snacking and stealing Cheetos—will probably do less harm."

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
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