



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

By  
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SB 1024 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jerris Hedges and I serve as the dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB 1024 which seeks to establish a cannabinoid medicine program within the University of Hawai'i to be administered by JABSOM.

JABSOM already employs faculty with expertise in substance use, which includes marijuana, THC and cannabinoids. JABSOM has both an Addiction Psychiatry fellowship and a separate fellowship in Addiction Medicine. JABSOM has an existing curriculum throughout all four years of medical school, and its residency and fellowship programs, which addresses substance use, chronic pain management, management of side effects of chemotherapy, and medical cannabis. The curricular content includes cannabis and cannabinoid products. Continuing education offerings by JABSOM and other accredited continuing education providers in Hawai'i have been provided and will be modified as new evidence or policies which impact patient care in Hawai'i are forthcoming. Additionally, should this program in cannabinoid medicine extend beyond education and training into more promotional endeavors, JABSOM will be restricted in its curriculum due to marijuana remaining a Schedule 1 drug under federal law.

In light of the curriculum and other faculty activities already in existence, which provide education and training in cannabinoids, we believe that creating another separate course of study in cannabinoid medicine would duplicate JABSOM's current educational efforts in the field. Given ongoing financial and operational challenges during the pandemic, implementation of the current bill would needlessly consume additional resources. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 1024.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.