

## UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM 'ÕNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI'I

Legislative Testimony Hōʻike Manaʻo I Mua O Ka ʻAhaʻōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce March 19, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. By Kalbert K. Young Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer University of Hawai'i System

SB 3335 SD2 HD1 - RELATING TO CANNABIS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **objects to any provisions in** SB 3335 SD2 HD1 that would mandate the UH to allow and permit the use of controlled substances within UH facilities in close proximity and/or exposure to university students, patrons, and visitors who are under legal age to do so. There are sections of SB 3335 SD2 HD1 that are completely inappropriate for students and personnel of the UH. Additionally, SB 3335 SD2 HD1 is inconsistent or in conflict with established statutes and UH policies:

## Page 28, lines 5-9:

"accordance with this chapter, but shall allow the medical use or personal adult use of cannabis by a college or university faculty member or student while faculty member or student is within faculty or student housing;"

## Page 76, line 20 through page 77, line 2:

*"in accordance with this chapter, but shall allow medical use of cannabis by a college or university faculty member or student while the faculty member or student is within faculty or student housing;"* 

## Page 87, lines 9-12:

"(c) No school shall refuse to enroll or otherwise penalize, and no landlord shall refuse to lease property to or otherwise penalize, a person solely for the person's personal adult use of cannabis under this part,"

The provisions in SB 3335 SD2 HD1 that would require the UH to permit practices for unfettered use of controlled and regulated substances on UH property is illogical. For example, the UH has established policies and state statutes that prohibit or restrict smoking on campuses. Chapter 304A-122, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), explicitly prohibits the UH from allowing smoking or tobacco use on UH premises. There are also

UH policies (Board of Regent Policy 11.202) that limit and restrict – to the point of prohibition – the sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor on campuses. The UH also has policies (Executive Policy 11.201) restricting the use of illegal drugs and discouraging substance abuse by university personnel and students on university campuses in compliance with the US Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, and the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988. Compliance with both of these federal acts are requirements for the UH's continued receipt of federal funding.

It is illogical that SB 3335 SD2 HD1 should require the UH to allow unfettered use of a controlled substance like cannabis, when other statutes expressly – even require – governance over other controlled, but legal, substances. Additionally, the UH has policies and practices in place to limit such uses on campuses, because not all UH staff, students, or patrons are of legal age to partake in such activities, and such use is inappropriate at an educational institution.

The UH objects and opposes any provision of SB 3335 SD2 HD1 that would mandate the UH permit and allow inappropriate activity and use of a controlled substance that is inconsistent to the UH's educational mission. The UH would oppose any further amendments that would further deprive the UH from setting its own policies toward regulating use and activities on UH campuses.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.