

Briefing Paper: Medical Marijuana Dispensaries For Hawai'i

Hawai'i was the first state to pass a medical marijuana law through a state legislature in 2000. **It needs to be modernized!** The most pressing issue is that there is still no dispensary system in Hawai'i!

Q: Is adding dispensaries the same as legalization?

A: Absolutely not. DPFHI supports a well-regulated, patient-centered dispensary system with protections for patients and safeguards to prevent the diversion of medicine to people that aren't authorized to have it. If and when Hawai'i adopts marijuana legalization, it will need a separate system.

Q: Isn't it against federal law?

A: While medical marijuana is still not recognized under federal law, the Department of Justice has issued guidelines about what medical marijuana programs can and cannot do. If Hawai'i adheres to these reasonable guidelines and creates a well-regulated system, federal interference is unlikely.

Q: Shouldn't we have a pilot program, just to see how it goes?

A: NO. Patients need access to medicine **now**, and over a dozen excellent dispensary models are up and running. There is no reason to **further delay** thousands of Hawai'i patients safe and legal access to medicine. None of the feared outcomes have occurred in any of the jurisdictions with working dispensaries.

Q: Will patients who can grow their own medicine be allowed to continue?

A: Yes, absolutely.

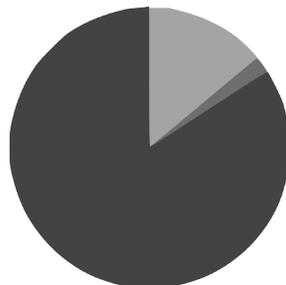
Patients in Hawai'i face a real catch 22.

Upon getting their "blue card" they are told that they must either grow all of their own medicine, or find a caregiver to grow it for them. **Many patients cannot do this!** Caregivers are scarce and patients may lack the physical capacity, the space, or the knowledge required to grow medical marijuana. **Dispensaries will give these patients access to the medicine they need!**

There is also no legal way to acquire seeds or clones in the first place. Even patients who do grow their own might want to use a dispensary. Dispensaries can offer a variety of strains that are helpful for different conditions, and will provide access to smokeless products like tinctures, oils, lotions and concentrates that patients cannot make themselves.

Hawai'i voters understand the need for dispensaries, and in a 2014 survey by QMark Research, 85% of voters supported adding dispensaries to the medical marijuana law!

2014 Survey of Hawaii's Voters



85% Support Dispensaries

14% Oppose Dispensaries

2% Undecided