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March 13, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hearing: Thursday, March 14, 2013, 3:00pm, Room 224

SUBJECT: Senate Bill Senate Bill 472, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 Proposal, Relating To Marijuana

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

The Kauai Police Department opposes Senate Bill No. 472, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 Proposal Relating to Marijuana.

In recent studies by Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) the following facts were validated:

1. Less than 0.7% of all state inmates were behind bars for marijuana possession.
2. 99.8 % of Federal prisoners sentenced for drug offenses were incarcerated for drug trafficking.
3. Under legalization, more people, not fewer, will be ensnared in the criminal justice system. A fact most people do not know is that alcohol—not cocaine, heroin or marijuana—is responsible for 2.6 million arrests every year. That is 1 million more arrests than for all illegal drugs combined.
4. Federal excise taxes collected on alcohol in 2007 totaled around \$9 billion; states collected around \$5.5 billion. Combined, these amounts are less than 10 percent of the estimated \$185 billion in alcohol—related costs to health care, criminal justice, and the workplace in lost productivity.
5. Tobacco does not yield net revenue when taxed. Each year, Americans spend more than \$200 billion on the social costs of smoking, but only about \$25 billion is collected in taxes.

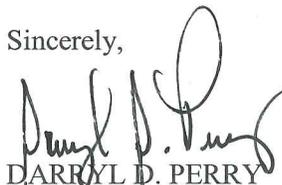
6. Legalizing marijuana would not curtail drug cartels and the Black Market from continuing in their criminal enterprise.
7. 1 in 10 people who try marijuana becomes addicted to it, developing a dependence that produces withdrawal and cravings. If marijuana use starts in adolescence, the chances of addiction are 1 in 6.
8. Marijuana use directly affects the brain, specifically the parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning, attention and reaction time.
9. Science confirms that the adolescent brain, particularly the part of the brain that regulates complex cognitive behavior, personality expression, decision making and social behavior, is not fully developed until about the age of 25. Developing brains are especially susceptible to all of the negative effects of marijuana and other drug use.
10. Marijuana use has been shown to be significantly linked with mental illness, especially schizophrenia and psychosis, and also depression and anxiety.

There is a false belief that this bill will not harm society, but will significantly reduce the number of individuals in our prisons or jails, negatively impact organized crime, while promoting health care, and personal responsibility. However, the reality is just the opposite. The passage of this bill would be incredibly detrimental to this and future generations. Moreover, the link between marijuana and the adolescent mind may be more detrimental with respect to suicidal tendencies.

The negative personal and social costs would be long-lasting, and the family structure as we know it today would be a thing of the past; memories viewed only through home-made videos.

Because the Kauai Police Department believes strongly in maintaining and preserving the family structure and cultural values, we, in no uncertain terms oppose the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



DARRYL D. PERRY  
Chief of Police