

Hawaii Grants License to 25th Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Hawaii's Medical Cannabis Market Reaches Milestone with Opening of 25th Dispensary

Hawaii's medical cannabis market has reached a significant milestone with the opening of the state's 25th dispensary. This expansion marks a key moment in the island state's evolving cannabis industry, offering increased access to patients in need of medical marijuana. The newly licensed dispensary, **Cure Oahu**, opened its doors in Kailua, a community located on the windward side of Oahu, and aims to serve the growing patient base across the Hawaiian Islands.

Cure Oahu Opens New Dispensary in Kailua

The Hawaii Department of Health awarded the medical marijuana (MMJ) business license to **Cure Oahu**, which officially launched its third dispensary on Oahu. The new location in Kailua is seen as a much-needed resource for patients living on the island's windward side, providing easier access to medical cannabis products. **Liam Gimon**, the state's dispensary licensing supervisor, emphasized the importance of this new addition.

"Cure Oahu's new dispensary in Kailua will provide much-needed access to patients on the windward side of Oahu," Gimon stated in a press release. This opening further solidifies Oahu's role as the central hub for medical marijuana in Hawaii, with the island now hosting 10 dispensaries—the highest number of any island in the state.

Oahu Leads in Number of Dispensaries

With the addition of Cure Oahu's Kailua location, Oahu now leads the Hawaiian Islands in medical cannabis dispensaries. The state's health department reported that Oahu is home to 10 of Hawaii's 25 dispensaries, reflecting the island's higher population density compared to the other islands.

In comparison, **Maui** currently has seven dispensaries, while **Hawaii Island** and **Kauai** have six and two dispensaries, respectively. The distribution of dispensaries highlights both the demand for medical cannabis in densely populated areas and the ongoing expansion of the state's market to meet patient needs.

Hawaii's Cannabis Industry Expands Since 2017

Hawaii's journey toward medical cannabis legalization began in 2017, two years after the state's governor signed a law permitting the establishment of retail medical marijuana opportunities. The first dispensary opened on **Maui** that same year, marking a new chapter for patients seeking legal access to cannabis for medical use.

Since then, the state's cannabis market has expanded rapidly, reaching a milestone of 25 dispensaries. This expansion reflects the growing acceptance of medical marijuana and the increasing number of patients seeking treatment.

Patient Enrollment Continues to Grow

As of **December 2, 2024**, the state reported a total of **30,035** registered medical marijuana patients, along with **2,609 caregivers**. These figures indicate a steady rise in demand for cannabis as a treatment for qualifying medical conditions. Notably, **Oahu** is home to the largest number of patients, with **14,798** registered patients and **1,463** caregivers.

The primary qualifying condition for medical marijuana patients in Hawaii continues to be **severe pain**. However, the state also recognizes other conditions that may qualify patients for medical cannabis, broadening the scope of treatment options available to those in need.

Impact of Expanded Access on Patients

The opening of additional dispensaries, particularly on Oahu, aims to alleviate the strain on patients seeking medical cannabis treatment. As the number of dispensaries increases, access to cannabis products becomes more convenient for patients across the state.

The expansion also signifies that Hawaii's medical marijuana industry is maturing, providing a well-regulated and accessible marketplace for both patients and producers. As more dispensaries open their doors and the industry evolves, patients can expect better services, a wider range of products, and potentially more competitive pricing.

The Future of Hawaii's Cannabis Market

With the opening of Cure Oahu's Kailua dispensary, Hawaii's medical cannabis market is poised for further growth. As more patients enroll in the medical marijuana program and more dispensaries come online, the state continues to solidify its position as a leader in the U.S. cannabis industry. The future of Hawaii's cannabis sector looks bright, with ongoing efforts to ensure patients have access to the products they need in a regulated and safe environment.

As Hawaii's cannabis industry continues to grow, attention will likely turn to potential expansions into the recreational market. However, for now, medical cannabis remains the focus, and with increased access through additional dispensaries, patients across the state are benefiting from the expanding network of care.

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