

Aloha Chair Bynum and the Honorable Members of the House Committee On Judiciary,

I am writing to ask you to support HB 3112 as a BIPOC victim of the drug war. I am also a volcano refugee who moved to Oregon from Hawaii after losing my home and business in the 2018 Kilauea eruption.

In Portland, we started Tantric Ganja CBD Elixir. Without the assistance we received from equity programs such as those from NuLeaf, we would not have been able to progress as far in bringing our business to market.

Especially in the THC and CBD businesses, a person of color has great challenges of equity and financing to get a project off the ground. The system is currently regulated and taxed in a way that only large companies with lots of money can get their foot in the door. We wanted to start with a Tantric Ganja THC elixir, but it was prohibitively expensive so we had to temporarily put that project aside.

Building a business in the marijuana industry is a long and arduous process. Many people of color like myself have paid a price in the drug war. We would like to be tax paying members who are playing a role in creating new social entrepreneur opportunities.

Startup assistance to BIPOC entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry is essential in the first years of existence to level the playing field. We have now gone through schooling, mentoring, training, practical research and experience. Yet access to finance and financial assistance remains our biggest hurdle.

We have the enthusiasm; we just need help to get there. That is why it is so important to me and my community that you support HB 3112.

Thank you very much and we wish you much aloha,
Sincerely,
Mojo Mustapha