

# *The Hawai`i Cannabis (THC) Ministry*

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March 8, 2010

The Honorable Rachel J. Olguin-Fresquez

Clear Creek County Courts

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Re: Trevor Douglas (Case #: 09M215)

Dear Judge Fresquez:

Aloha and greetings to you from the Big Island in the Kingdom of Hawai`i. We hope that this letter finds you and yours in good health and spirits.

My name is Roger Christie. I am the founder and leader of The Hawai`i Cannabis (THC) Ministry, headquartered in Hilo, Hawai`i. I am licensed to perform marriage ceremonies by the State of Hawai`i specifically as a *Cannabis Sacrament Minister* (Hawai`i Department of Health License # 00-313). The THC Ministry also serves as the Hilo Branch of the Oklevueha Native American Church. I was originally ordained by the Universal Life Church in 1972. I was then ordained by the Religion of Jesus Church in 2000 before forming my own ministry. Both of these churches, as well as the THC Ministry, have been recognized repeatedly by courts as bona fide churches.

Ten years ago I founded The Hawai`i Cannabis (THC) Ministry to share the blessing of the Ministry with the world. The Ministry is open to all sincere religious users and cultivators of *Cannabis* over 21 years old. Our congregation includes thousands of members from over 60 countries.

The THC Ministry is a global religious organization whose members are required to use *Cannabis* to become closer to God. Holy *Cannabis* sacrament, in its many different forms, is mandated by our religion for prayer, meditation, worship, baptism, communion, healing, spiritual unity and fellowship. We use holy anointing oil to bless and heal people. The ancient recipe for holy anointing oil was given by God to Moses in Exodus (30: 22-23) and included olive oil, myrrh, cinnamon and *Cannabis*. See *kaneh bosem* for the literal translation. "The yoke of bondage shall be broken by the anointing." (Isaiah 10:27) The holy anointing oil is to be used throughout all the generations for healing of body, mind and spirit.

Members of the THC Ministry believe that:

- Cultivation and enjoyment of *Cannabis* sacrament is a fundamental human right provided by God and protected by the U.S. Constitution and the Constitutions of every U.S. state.

- Sacramental use of *Cannabis* opens the mind, frees the soul and releases the body to commune with God and balance itself.
- *Cannabis* has been used for millennia as a sacrament by spiritual seekers & is the original sacrament of Hebrew, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Shinto, Buddhist, Rasta and more.
- *Cannabis* is the Tree of Life, given to humans by God for food, shelter, clothing, fuel, medicine, sacrament and much more.
- *Cannabis* was given by God to help humans find answers to fundamental questions about the meaning of life and their place in it.
- *Cannabis* fosters a spirit of harmony and compassion among people.

#### THC Ministry Practices

- Holy *Cannabis* sacrament is used by members for prayer, meditation, worship, nutrition, healing, and fellowship.
- We use *Cannabis* in formal rituals, including baptisms, weddings, & funerals.
- *Cannabis* use as a sacrament is also encouraged for communing with nature.
- We teach members to bless their challenges, find the good in any situation and to honor all of God's creation.
- We strive to live with modesty, good manners and humbleness.

I write to you concerning the case of Trevor Douglas, a young man who will soon appear in your court facing charges of *Cannabis* possession. Trevor is a Member in Good Standing of the THC Ministry. As Trevor's minister, I have had the occasion of talking to him several times.

Trevor has also been involved in the Church of US, another church that mandates *Cannabis* use. Trevor, like many young men I see, is searching for higher meaning in his life and has deep questions about his place in the Universe and his quest for God. The plant *Cannabis* helps him further his knowledge and his quest for spiritual attainment. Trevor's good manners and respect for people are indicators of his sincerity. He is being honest and sincere when he says that *Cannabis* is part of his religious practice. In my discussions with Trevor concerning *Cannabis* spirituality, I have had every indication that he is sincere and honest about his *Cannabis* sacramental use.

As you know, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects religious freedom, even of religions that may seem a little "different". Our country was founded by people fleeing religious prosecution for their "different" beliefs, so this is a fundamental right.

The Colorado Constitution is even more explicit about religious freedom than the U.S. Constitution:

*Section 4. Religious freedom. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever hereafter be guaranteed; and no person shall be denied any civil or political right, privilege or capacity, on account of his opinions concerning religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be construed to dispense with oaths or affirmations, excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the good order, peace or safety of the state. No person shall be required to attend or support any ministry or place of worship, religious sect or denomination against his consent. Nor shall any preference be given by law to any religious denomination or mode of worship.*

Since Trevor uses *Cannabis* as his “mode of worship” responsibly in private and is sincere about his beliefs, his *Cannabis* possession falls under the protection of both the U.S. and Colorado Constitutions.

If you have any questions about the THC Ministry, please call me at any time. I am happy to help you understand our beliefs and practices, and show you how *Cannabis* sacrament can impact people’s lives in a very positive way and bring them closer to God.

Thank you for your sincere consideration and compassion.

Aloha and mahalo!

Sincerely,

Rev. Roger Christie  
*Cannabis Sacrament Minister*  
State of Hawai`i Department of Health  
License # 00-313

Cc: Deputy District Attorney Michael Angel  
Clear Creek County District Attorney's Office