

PROPOSED

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The weed and seed strategy is a United States
2 Department of Justice initiative that is administered locally by
3 the United States Attorney's Office. Initiated in 1992, the
4 strategy currently includes more than three hundred sites in two
5 hundred twenty-six cities across the country.

6 The weed and seed strategy is a collaborative effort among
7 law enforcement (federal, state, and county) agencies, social
8 service agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations,
9 and residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild communities. The
10 four key elements of the weed and seed strategy are:

- 11 (1) Law enforcement;
- 12 (2) Community policing;
- 13 (3) Prevention, intervention, and treatment programs; and
- 14 (4) Neighborhood restoration.

15 The weed and seed strategy works with local law enforcement
16 to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and
17 gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by "weeding" out the
18 criminal element in the community. Community policing involves



1 having police officers work closely with community residents to
2 develop solutions to violent and drug-related crimes. The next
3 step is to "seed" the community with human services that include
4 prevention, intervention treatment, and neighborhood
5 revitalization.

6 The legislature finds that the weed and seed strategy has
7 been successful since its inception in the Kalihi-Palama and
8 Chinatown areas of downtown Honolulu. The legislature further
9 finds that since the beginning of the program, crime in those
10 areas has been significantly reduced. The legislature further
11 finds that the strategy's success warrants its expansion into
12 other communities.

13 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for the
14 weed and seed strategy.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 as a grant
18 to the YMCA of Honolulu for the weed and seed strategy.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

PROPOSED

Report Title:

Weed and Seed Strategy

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the Weed and Seed Strategy. (SD1)

