
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 legislature finds that "weed and seed" is a
2 strategy sponsored by the United States Department of Justice
3 and is administered locally by the United States Attorney's
4 Office. Initiated in 1992, weed and seed is an innovative,
5 comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime
6 prevention, and community revitalization. The strategy is
7 currently implemented in one hundred fifteen sites across the
8 nation.

9 The weed and seed strategy is a collaborative effort among
10 law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and county
11 levels, social service agencies, private businesses, nonprofit
12 organizations, and residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild
13 communities. The four key elements of the weed and seed
14 strategy are:

- 15 (1) Law enforcement;
16 (2) Community policing;
17 (3) Prevention, intervention, and treatment programs; and
18 (4) Neighborhood restoration.



1 The weed and seed strategy works with local law enforcement
2 to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and
3 gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by "weeding" out the
4 criminal element in the community. Community policing involves
5 having police officers work closely with community residents to
6 develop solutions to violent and drug-related crimes. "Seeding"
7 the community involves collaboration among various human
8 services organizations to implement prevention, intervention
9 treatment, and neighborhood revitalization projects, programs,
10 and activities.

11 The legislature finds that the State has benefited greatly
12 from weed and seed programs at sites on Oahu that encompass Ala
13 Moana, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa
14 Beach. Since the implementation of the strategy, crime in those
15 areas has been reduced significantly. The legislature further
16 finds that the strategy's success warrants maintaining the
17 operations of the weed and seed program in these communities,
18 and envisions expanding it to other communities in the future.

19 The purpose of this Act is to:

20 (1) Establish a permanent weed and seed program within the
21 department of labor and industrial relations to
22 continue its success; and



1 (2) Appropriate funds for a grant to the Young Men's
 2 Christian Association of Honolulu to maintain the
 3 operations of the weed and seed program in the Ala
 4 Moana, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu,
 5 and Ewa Beach communities on Oahu.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 8 and to read as follows:

9 "§371- Weed and seed program; established. (a) There
 10 is established within the department of labor and industrial
 11 relations the weed and seed program to reduce crime and improve
 12 the quality of life for residents and neighborhoods in the
 13 State. The program shall be a collaborative effort among
 14 residents, law enforcement agencies, social service providers,
 15 educators, area businesses, and other resource agencies and
 16 support organizations to:

17 (1) Create, initiate, implement, and support responsible,
 18 community-based activities, projects, and services
 19 that help reduce crime and drug use in neighborhoods;

20 (2) Engage members of the community to encourage the
 21 development and maintenance of economic and social
 22 well-being; and



H.B. NO. 1513

1 (3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on
2 sustainable results.

3 (b) The state weed and seed program shall be guided by an
4 advisory committee composed of representatives from various
5 public and private sectors, including but not limited to:

6 (1) Federal agencies such as the United States Attorney's
7 Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the
8 United States Department of Housing and Urban
9 Development;

10 (2) State agencies such as the department of education,
11 department of health, department of human services,
12 department of public safety, Hawaii public housing
13 authority, the office of the governor, and the office
14 of the lieutenant governor;

15 (3) County agencies such as the office of the mayor,
16 managing director, office of special projects, the
17 prosecuting attorney, and the chief of police;

18 (4) Community and trade organizations such as Aloha United
19 Way, Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu,
20 Honolulu Board of Realtors, Tax Foundation of Hawaii,
21 and other health, human services, and trade
22 organizations; and



1 (5) Private businesses and corporate entities.
2 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
3 each regular session of the legislature, the weed and seed
4 advisory committee shall submit a report to the legislature and
5 the governor on its activities, including projects completed or
6 ongoing, funds expended, and other relevant data or information
7 on the program."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$336,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
12 2012-2013 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes, to the Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu
14 to maintain the operations of the weed and seed program in the
15 Ala Moana, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and
16 Ewa Beach communities on Oahu.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
18 of labor and industrial relations through a contract with the
19 YMCA of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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H.B. NO. 1513

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JAN 26 2011



Report Title:

Weed and Seed Program; Permanent Establishment; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a permanent weed and seed program within DLIR. Appropriates funds as a grant to maintain the operations of the weed and seed program in the Ala Moana, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa beach communities on Oahu.

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