
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 based on the weed and seed strategy
13 at sites on Oahu that encompass Ala Moana, Chinatown, downtown
14 Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa Beach. Since the
15 implementation of the strategy, crime in those areas has
16 decreased significantly. The legislature further finds that the
17 strategy's success warrants the continued operation of the weed
18 and seed program in these communities, and envisions expanding
19 it to other communities in the future.

20 The purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Establish a permanent weed and seed program within the
2 department of labor and industrial relations to
3 continue the program's success; and

4 (2) Appropriate funds to maintain current operations of
5 the weed and seed program and expand the program into
6 other areas of the State.

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

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

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



1 (2) Engage members of the community to encourage the
2 development and maintenance of economic and social
3 well-being; and

4 (3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on
5 sustainable results.

6 (b) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 each regular session of the legislature, the department of labor
8 and industrial relations shall submit a report to the
9 legislature and the governor on its activities, including
10 projects completed or ongoing, funds expended, and other
11 relevant data or information on the program."

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2012-2013 to maintain the weed and seed program in areas
17 currently designated for the weed and seed strategy and to
18 expand the weed and seed program into other areas of the State.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

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1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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Report Title:

Weed and Seed Program; Permanent Establishment; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a permanent weed and seed program within DLIR.
Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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