

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONTRACT
WITH INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS TO REVIEW HAWAII'S DRUG
POLICIES AND EVALUATE THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS.

1 WHEREAS, substance abuse and addiction is a public health
2 issue; and

3
4 WHEREAS, complete, accurate, and current data on substance
5 abuse and addiction to develop effective and fiscally
6 responsible policies is not readily available; and

7
8 WHEREAS, substance abuse and addiction issues intersect
9 with many other issues in the community, including homelessness,
10 violence in the home, incarceration, property crime, foster
11 care, judiciary costs, health care, employment, and after-school
12 programs; and

13
14 WHEREAS, a report published in 2009 by The National Center
15 on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University provided
16 a breakdown of state spending related to substance abuse and
17 addiction as follows: justice forty-one per cent; education
18 thirty-two per cent; health sixteen per cent; child and family
19 assistance nine per cent; state workforce one per cent; mental
20 health and developmental disabilities less than one per cent;
21 and public safety less than one per cent; and

22
23 WHEREAS, a report published in 2010 by the Office of
24 Hawaiian Affairs revealed that, in 2009, Native Hawaiians
25 represented the largest percentage of people admitted to prison
26 for drug offenses, despite the fact that Native Hawaiians do not
27 use drugs and are not arrested at drastically different rates
28 than other ethnicities; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the complexity of substance abuse and addiction
31 combined with the number of state and county departments



1 responsible for implementing programs has resulted in
2 conflicting and ineffective plans of action among the various
3 departments; and
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5 WHEREAS, the development of a comprehensive state drug
6 policy should be based on accurate data, an assessment of the
7 effectiveness of current programs, and fair treatment by the
8 justice system to lessen the impacts on any particular group;
9 now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Attorney General
14 is requested to contract with independent public policy
15 researchers to conduct a study of Hawaii's drug policies and
16 evaluate their impacts; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
19 include the following:
20

- 21 (1) Demographics of substance abusers and addicts,
22 including education levels, types of drug convictions,
23 duration of sentences, drug assessments, participation
24 in and effectiveness of drug programs, and recidivism
25 rates;
26
- 27 (2) Number of children in foster-care or adopted as a
28 result of issues relating to substance abuse,
29 addiction, or incarceration;
30
- 31 (3) Per cent of homeless people with substance abuse or
32 addiction problems and whether drug use affects
33 finding available homes;
34
- 35 (4) Number of students turned down for higher education
36 loans due to drug convictions;
37
- 38 (5) Analysis of employment drug policies, including the
39 number of organizations with zero tolerance policies,
40 and the number of employees terminated, turned down
41 for employment or promotion, or provided with drug
42 treatment programs due to a positive drug test or
43 drug-related conviction;
44



- 1 (6) Types and capabilities of treatment programs,
- 2 including availability of beds, duration of applicable
- 3 waiting lists, number of applicant refusals and
- 4 reasons therefore, and any special needs requirements
- 5 of patients;
- 6
- 7 (7) Judiciary costs related to drug offenses;
- 8
- 9 (8) Law enforcement costs related to drug offenses; and
- 10
- 11 (9) Cost effectiveness of the various programs over the
- 12 immediately preceding five years; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Attorney General is
 15 requested to report findings and recommendations to the
 16 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 17 the Regular Session of 2012; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney
 21 General, Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Director of
 22 Human Services, Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing
 23 Authority, Chairperson of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition,
 24 Chief of Police and Prosecuting Attorney for the city and county
 25 of Honolulu, and the counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii, State
 26 Senate President, and State Speaker of the House of
 27 Representatives.

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OFFERED BY:

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