

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that weed and seed is a  
2 program administered by the United States Attorney's Office in  
3 partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu. Initiated in the country  
4 in 1991, weed and seed is a comprehensive multi-agency approach  
5 to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community  
6 revitalization. Although no longer funded by the United States  
7 Department of Justice, weed and seed is a recognized "brand  
8 name" in Hawaii, having been in existence since 1998. The  
9 legislature finds that it is a robust program, doing substantial  
10 good in our communities.

11           The weed and seed program is a collaborative effort among  
12 law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and county  
13 levels; social service agencies; private businesses; faith-based  
14 organizations; the public sector, including city, state, and  
15 federal departments; schools; nonprofit organizations; and  
16 residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild communities. The  
17 four key elements of the weed and seed program are:



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

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

15 The legislature also finds that the State has benefited  
16 greatly from weed and seed, based on programs at sites on Oahu  
17 that encompass Kalihi-Palama, Chinatown, Downtown Honolulu, Ala  
18 Moana, Sheridan, McCully, Waipahu, and Ewa Beach. Since the  
19 implementation of the program, crime in those areas has  
20 decreased significantly. The legislature further finds that the  
21 program's success warrants the continued operation of weed and



1 seed in these communities, and envisions expanding it to other  
2 communities in the future.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Establish a permanent weed and seed program within the  
5 department of labor and industrial relations to

6 continue the program's success; and

7 (2) Appropriate funds to maintain current operations of  
8 the weed and seed program and expand the weed and seed  
9 program into other areas of the State.

10 \* SECTION 2. Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
12 and to read as follows:

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



- 1       (1) Create, initiate, implement, and support responsible
- 2       community-based activities, projects, and services
- 3       that help reduce crime and drug use in neighborhoods;
- 4       (2) Engage members of the community to encourage the
- 5       development and maintenance of economic and social
- 6       well-being; and
- 7       (3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on
- 8       sustainable results.

9       (b) The department, through the office of community  
 10 services, may contract with community residents, law enforcement  
 11 agencies, social service providers, educators, area businesses,  
 12 and other resource agencies and support organizations to provide  
 13 the services required under subsection (a).

14       (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 15 each regular session of the legislature, the department shall  
 16 submit a report to the legislature and the governor on its  
 17 activities relating to the weed and seed program, including  
 18 projects completed or ongoing, funds expended, and other  
 19 relevant data or information on the program."

20       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$336,000 or so much  
 22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to

1 maintain the weed and seed program in areas currently designated  
2 for the weed and seed program and to expand the weed and seed  
3 program into other areas of the State.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
5 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



**Report Title:**

Weed and Seed Program; DLIR; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Weed and Seed Program under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Allows the Department through the Office of Community Services, to contract for services. Appropriates \$336,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 to maintain and expand the program. Effective July 1, 2012. (HB2773 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

