
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 Young Men's Christian Association of
4 Honolulu. Initiated in the country in 1991, weed and seed is a
5 comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime
6 prevention, and community revitalization. Although no longer
7 funded by the United States Department of Justice, weed and seed
8 is a recognized "brand name" in Hawaii, having been in existence
9 since 1998. The legislature finds that it is a robust program,
10 doing substantial 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) Permanently establish the weed and seed program within
5 the department of labor and industrial relations;

6 (2) Appropriate funds for a grant to the Young Men's
7 Christian Association of Honolulu to support the
8 operations of the weed and seed program through the
9 office of community services of the department of
10 labor and industrial relations; and

11 (3) Appropriate funds to maintain current operations of
12 the weed and seed program and expand the weed and seed
13 program into other areas of the State.

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

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



1 businesses, and other resource agencies and support
2 organizations to:

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

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

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 as a grant
20 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the Young
21 Men's Christian Association of Honolulu to support the
22 operations of the weed and seed program on the island of Oahu.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
2 community services of the department of labor and industrial
3 relations for the purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to
7 maintain the weed and seed program in areas currently designated
8 for the weed and seed program and to expand the weed and seed
9 program into other areas of the State.

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

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



Report Title:

Weed and Seed Program; DLIR; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Weed and Seed program under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Appropriates an unspecified amount to the Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu as a grant to support the Weed and Seed program on Oahu.

Appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for fiscal year 2012-2013 to maintain and expand the program. Effective January 7, 2009. (HB2773 HD3)

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