

JAN 26 2011

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 for the district of Hawaii. Initiated in 1992, weed and
5 seed is an innovative, comprehensive multi-agency approach to
6 law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.
7 The strategy is currently implemented in at least one hundred
8 and fifteen sites across the 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 elements 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 expanding it to other communities in the future.

19 The purpose of this Act is to establish a permanent weed
20 and seed strategy within the department of labor and industrial
21 relations, and make an appropriation for the weed and seed
22 strategy.



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

4 "§371K- Weed and seed. (a) There is established within
5 the office of community services the weed and seed strategy to
6 reduce crime and improve the quality of life for residents and
7 neighborhoods in the State. The weed and seed strategy shall be
8 a collaborative effort among community residents, law
9 enforcement agencies, social service providers, educators, area
10 businesses, and other resource agencies and support
11 organizations to:

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

15 (2) Engage members of the community to encourage the
16 development and maintenance of economic and social
17 well-being; and

18 (3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on
19 sustainable results.

20 (b) The office of community services shall:

21 (1) Administer appropriations and other funding for the
22 weed and seed strategy; and



1 (2) Identify or assist in identifying those areas to
2 implement for the weed and seed strategy.

3 (c) The weed and seed strategy shall be guided by an
4 advisory committee, exempt from section 26-34, composed of
5 representatives selected by the executive director of the office
6 of community services from various public and private sectors,
7 including:

8 (1) Federal agencies, including the United States
9 Attorney's Office, the United States Drug Enforcement
10 Administration, and the United States Department of
11 Housing and Urban Development;

12 (2) State agencies, including the department of education,
13 department of health, department of human services,
14 department of labor and industrial relations,
15 department of public safety, Hawaii public housing
16 authority, the office of the governor, and the office
17 of the lieutenant governor;

18 (3) County agencies, including the mayor, the prosecuting
19 attorney, the chief of police, and other appropriate
20 departments and agencies; and

21 (4) Community organizations engaged in providing health
22 and human services.



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

7 SECTION 3. Section 371K-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) There is established within the department of labor
 10 and industrial relations, for administrative purposes only, an
 11 office of community services. The following shall be among the
 12 programs to be under the auspices of and coordinated through the
 13 office:

- 14 (1) Progressive neighborhoods program;
- 15 (2) Hawaii office of economic opportunity;
- 16 (3) Refugee resettlement program; ~~and~~
- 17 (4) State immigrant services center~~[-]~~; and
- 18 (5) Weed and seed strategy."

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
 22 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal

1 year 2012-2013 to maintain the weed and seed strategy in areas
 2 currently designated for weed and seed strategy and to expand
 3 the weed and seed strategy into other areas of the State;
 4 provided that any appropriation shall be conditioned on
 5 obtaining federal funding for the weed and seed strategy in a
 6 designated area.

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

9 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Enger

Mike Gubbard

Tommy S. Jones

Richard J. Miller

Miller



Report Title:

Weed and Seed Strategy; DLIR; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the weed and seed strategy under the department of labor and industrial relations. Makes appropriation.

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