

JAN 20 2012

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 1992, 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:

18 (1) Law enforcement;



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

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

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



1 The purpose of this Act is to:

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

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

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

11 "§371- Weed and seed program. (a) There is established
12 within the department the weed and seed program to reduce crime
13 and improve the quality of life for residents and neighborhoods
14 in the State. The weed and seed program shall be a
15 collaborative effort among community residents, law enforcement
16 agencies, social service providers, educators, area businesses,
17 and other resource agencies and 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 shall
- 8 submit a report to the legislature and the governor on its
- 9 activities relating to the weed and seed program, 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 much

14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to

15 maintain the weed and seed program in areas currently designated

16 for the weed and seed program and to expand the weed and seed

17 program into other areas of the State.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of

19 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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S.B. NO. 2261

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2261

Report Title:

Weed and Seed Program; DLIR; Appropriation

Description:

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

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