
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:

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 and
12 treatment, and neighborhood revitalization projects, programs,
13 and 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 appropriate funds to maintain
2 current operations of the weed and seed program.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$336,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to
6 maintain the current operation of the weed and seed program in
7 areas currently designated for the weed and seed program.

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

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



Report Title:

Weed and Seed Program; DLIR; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the Weed and Seed Program for fiscal year 2012-2013 to maintain the current operation of the Program in areas currently designated for the Program. (CD1)

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