

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT STATEWIDE
WEED AND SEED INITIATIVE AS A STATE AGENCY.

1 WHEREAS, the Weed and Seed Program is a robust, beneficial,
2 and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement,
3 crime prevention, and community revitalization, defining its
4 mission as the aim to "reclaim, restore and rebuild" communities
5 through community policing, drug treatment programs, and
6 neighborhood restoration; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the Weed and Seed Program works with local law
9 enforcement to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug
10 abuse, and gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by "weeding
11 out" the criminal elements in plagued communities with police
12 officers working closely with community residents to prevent
13 violent and drug related crimes; and

14
15 WHEREAS, "seeding" the community involves collaboration
16 among various human services organizations, community groups,
17 and businesses to implement prevention, intervention, and
18 treatment of neighborhood revitalization projects, programs, and
19 activities; and

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21 WHEREAS, "Weed and Seed" is recognized as a brand name in
22 Hawaii, having been established in the islands in 1998, after
23 its national initiation in 1991; and

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25 WHEREAS, the United States Attorney's Office administers
26 the Weed and Seed Program in partnership with the Young Men's
27 Christian Association of Honolulu and involves collaborative
28 efforts among agencies of all levels of government, social
29 service agencies, private businesses, faith-based organizations,
30 schools, nonprofit organizations, and residents; and

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32 WHEREAS, statistical reports have shown a decrease in crime
33 following Weed and Seed initiatives in the areas of Kalihi-



1 Palama, Chinatown, Downtown Honolulu, Ala Moana, Sheridan,
2 McCully, Waipahu, and Ewa Beach; and

3
4 WHEREAS, drug abuse and crime remain significant social
5 obstacles throughout the State, including many regions where no
6 Weed and Seed program has been implemented due to the region's
7 remoteness or relative affluence; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$336,000 for the Weed
10 and Seed Program for fiscal year 2012-2013; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
15 Labor and Industrial Relations is urged to consider establishing
16 the Weed and Seed Program initiative as a permanent program by
17 no later than fiscal year 2014-2015; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii is
20 requested to establish the Weed and Seed Program as a state
21 agency within Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in
22 contrast to its current nonprofit status, and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to
25 expand Weed and Seed Program initiatives in their current
26 seminal zones of Kalihi-Palama, Chinatown, Downtown Honolulu,
27 Ala Moana, Sheridan, McCully, Waipahu, and Ewa Beach to
28 encompass the State in its entirety; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
31 Industrial Relations is requested to submit a report to the
32 Legislature on a Weed and Seed Program implementation plan and
33 any budgetary requirements not later than twenty days prior to
34 the convening of the 2014 Regular Session; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
38 Attorney for the District of Hawaii, the Governor, the Director
39 of Labor and Industrial Relations who in turn is requested to
40 transmit copies of this Concurrent Resolution to all community
41 care providers involved in the administration of any Weed and
42 Seed Program, the Chief of Police of the Police Department of
43



S.C.R. NO. 197

1 each county, and the President and Chief Executive Officer of
2 the Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu.
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Mike Gibson

OFFERED BY:

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