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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIME REDUCTION.

**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 was developed to demonstrate an innovative and  
6 comprehensive approach to law enforcement and community  
7 revitalization.

8           The weed and seed strategy is a collaborative effort among  
9 law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and county  
10 levels, social service agencies, private businesses, nonprofit  
11 organizations, and residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild  
12 communities.

13           The four key elements of the weed and seed strategy are:

- 14           (1) Law enforcement;  
15           (2) Community policing;  
16           (3) Prevention, intervention, and treatment programs; and  
17           (4) Neighborhood restoration.



1           The weed and seed strategy works with local law enforcement  
2 to weed out violent crime, gang activity, and drug use and  
3 trafficking in targeted areas. The strategy then works to seed  
4 the revitalization of the targeted areas by restoring the  
5 neighborhood through social and economic revitalization.

6           The legislature finds that the weed and seed strategy is  
7 currently being implemented in over one hundred fifty  
8 communities across the country. The State has benefited greatly  
9 from weed and seed programs at sites on Oahu that encompass Ala  
10 Moana, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa  
11 Beach. Since the implementation of the strategy, crime in those  
12 areas has been reduced significantly. The legislature further  
13 finds that the strategy's success warrants maintaining the  
14 operations of the weed and seed program in these communities,  
15 and expanding it to other communities in the future.

16           The purpose of this Act is to establish a permanent weed  
17 and seed strategy within the department of labor and industrial  
18 relations and make an appropriation for the weed and seed  
19 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 strategy. (a) There is  
5 established within the department of labor and industrial  
6 relations the weed and seed strategy to reduce crime and improve  
7 the quality of life for residents and neighborhoods in the  
8 State. The weed and seed strategy shall be a collaborative  
9 effort among community residents, law enforcement agencies,  
10 social service providers, educators, area businesses, and other  
11 resource agencies and support 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:



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

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

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

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

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



1       (3) County agencies, including the mayor, the prosecuting  
2       attorney, the chief of police, and other appropriate  
3       departments and agencies; and

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

6       (d) The weed and seed advisory committee shall, no later  
7       than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session  
8       of the legislature, submit a report to the legislature and the  
9       governor on its activities, including projects completed or  
10       ongoing, funds expended, and other relevant data or information  
11       on the weed and seed strategy."

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

14       "(a) There is established within the department of labor  
15       and industrial relations, for administrative purposes only, an  
16       office of community services. The following shall be among the  
17       programs to be under the auspices of and coordinated through the  
18       office:

- 19       (1) Progressive neighborhoods program;  
20       (2) Hawaii office of economic opportunity;  
21       (3) Refugee resettlement program; [~~and~~]



1 (4) State immigrant services center[-]; and

2 (5) Weed and seed strategy."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2016-2017 to maintain the weed and seed strategy in areas  
8 currently designated for weed and seed strategy and to expand  
9 the weed and seed strategy into other areas of the State.

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

12 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



**Report Title:**

Weed and Seed Strategy; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates a permanent weed and seed strategy within the department of labor and industrial relations, office of community services. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

