

JAN 22 2016

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## 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 weed and seed strategy is a United States  
2 Department of Justice initiative that is administered locally by  
3 the United States Attorney's Office. Initiated in 1992, the  
4 strategy currently includes more than three hundred sites in two  
5 hundred twenty-six cities across the country.

6           The weed and seed strategy is a collaborative effort among  
7 federal, state, and county level law enforcement agencies,  
8 social service agencies, private businesses, nonprofit  
9 organizations, and residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild  
10 communities. The four key elements of the weed and seed  
11 strategy are:

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

16           The weed and seed strategy uses local law enforcement to  
17 prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang



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1 activity in targeted neighborhoods by "weeding" out the criminal  
2 element in the community. Community policing involves having  
3 police officers work closely with community residents to develop  
4 solutions to violent and drug-related crimes. The next step is  
5 to "seed" the community with human services that include  
6 prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood  
7 revitalization.

8 The legislature finds that the weed and seed strategy has  
9 been successful since its inception in the Kalihi-Palama and  
10 Chinatown areas of downtown Honolulu. The legislature also  
11 finds that, since the beginning of the program, crime in those  
12 areas has been significantly reduced. The legislature further  
13 finds that the strategy's success warrants its expansion into  
14 other communities.

15 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to  
16 maintain and expand the weed and seed strategy.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to be  
20 dispersed as grants to maintain and expand the weed and seed  
21 strategy for expansion purposes.



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1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Grants; Weed and Seed Strategy; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for grants to maintain and expand the weed and seed strategy, which is a collaborative effort to reclaim, restore, and rebuild communities. Appropriates funds.

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