

MAR 11 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE FAIR WAGES FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA
DISPENSARY EMPLOYEES.

1 WHEREAS, in 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215,
2 making it the first state in the Union to allow for the medical
3 use of marijuana and since then, 23 states, the District of
4 Columbia, and Guam have enacted similar laws; and

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6 WHEREAS, the legalization of marijuana for strictly medical
7 use pursuant to Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, is
8 intended to provide medical relief for seriously ill individuals
9 in the State; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's medical marijuana program laws were
12 silent for 15 years on how patients could obtain medical
13 marijuana if they or their caregivers are unable to grow their
14 own supply of medical marijuana; and

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16 WHEREAS, Act 241, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established
17 a licensing system for medical marijuana dispensaries whereby
18 the Department of Health may issue up to eight medical marijuana
19 dispensary licenses statewide and each licensee may establish up
20 to two retail dispensing locations; and

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22 WHEREAS, each dispensary licensee may commence dispensing
23 medical marijuana and manufactured marijuana products no sooner
24 than July 15, 2016; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Department of Health received 66 dispensary
27 applications for the eight available licenses, which will be
28 awarded by April 15, 2016; and

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30 WHEREAS, medical marijuana dispensaries will boost the
31 economy and create numerous jobs in the State, including support
32 staff, security, product reviewers, growers, and manufacturers
33 within production centers and dispensaries; and



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2 WHEREAS, notwithstanding state and federal minimum wage
3 laws, no state that has medical marijuana dispensaries has
4 established a fair wage for industry employees; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii consistently places last in cost of living,
7 affordability, necessities, and utilities cost rankings, with an
8 average home price of \$868,317 in Honolulu Metro; and
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10 WHEREAS, on March 2, 2016, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser
11 reported that according to a new Bankrate.com report, "Hawaii is
12 the sixth-worst state for retirement largely because it has the
13 nation's highest cost of living and has high taxes"; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser also reported that
16 "Honolulu is the second most expensive place to live, with homes
17 that average about \$925,922 - triple the average price in the
18 U.S., according to the Council for Community and Economic
19 Research"; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents pay an individual maximum income
22 tax rate of 11 percent, second highest in the country; and
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24 WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to ensure that the new
25 medical marijuana dispensary workforce is fairly compensated to
26 afford the basic cost of living in Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, a fair wage established by the Department of Labor
29 and Industrial Relations would enable just compensation in the
30 industry; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
35 Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to conduct a study
36 to determine fair wages for medical marijuana dispensary
37 employees; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
40 Industrial Relations, with the cooperation of the Department of
41 Health, is requested to identify the necessary positions in
42 medical marijuana dispensaries; and



S.C.R. NO. 98

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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
 3 Industrial Relations is requested to submit a report of its
 4 findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
 5 the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor
 9 and Industrial Relations and Director of Health.

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 11
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OFFERED BY: _____

John D. ... MD

Randy H. Baker
~~*DC with Ag*~~

Will Z...

