

MAR 1 1 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE FAIR WAGES FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA
DISPENSARY SUPPORT STAFF 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, 22 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
10

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
25

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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1 WHEREAS, notwithstanding state and federal minimum wage
2 laws, no state that has medical marijuana dispensaries has
3 established a fair wage for industry employees; and
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5 WHEREAS, despite the foregoing, other states have
6 established wages for specific jobs related to the production of
7 medical marijuana in place; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii consistently places last in cost of living,
10 affordability, necessities, and utilities cost rankings, with
11 the average home price of \$868,317 in Honolulu Metro; and
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13 WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to ensure that the new
14 medical marijuana dispensary workforce is fairly compensated to
15 afford the basic cost of living in Hawaii; and
16

17 WHEREAS, a fair wage established by the Department of Labor
18 and Industrial Relations would enable just compensation in the
19 industry; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
23 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is
24 requested to conduct a study to determine the fair wage of
25 medical marijuana dispensary employees; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
28 Industrial Relations, with the cooperation of the Department of
29 Health, is requested to review and identify the necessary
30 positions in medical marijuana dispensaries; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
33 Industrial Relations review necessary positions and wages for
34 those positions related to medical marijuana dispensaries in
35 other jurisdictions where medical marijuana dispensaries are
36 established, and consider how this information may be used in
37 determining fair wages for Hawaii's medical marijuana dispensary
38 employees; and
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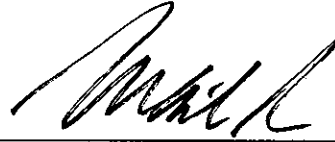


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and
3 Industrial Relations and the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: _____



Will Eyer

