

MAR 10 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE SHERIFF TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A  
PLAN FOR EXPANDING AND DEPLOYING THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS K9  
UNIT TO COMBAT THE ILLICIT DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC IN THE  
STATE.

1           WHEREAS, the abuse of illicit drugs in the State is an  
2 epidemic that has no place in Hawaii's families, communities, or  
3 schools; and  
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5           WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, the average  
6 annual number of drug poisoning deaths, or overdoses, in Hawaii  
7 nearly doubled from the 1999-2003 period (78 deaths) to the  
8 2010-2014 period (156 deaths); and  
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10           WHEREAS, the Department of Health also reports that from  
11 2010 through 2014, drugs and medications, including prescription  
12 drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications, were the  
13 underlying cause of death for ninety-one percent of all  
14 poisoning deaths; and  
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16           WHEREAS, it is essential that the State explore all  
17 reasonable options in combatting this public health crisis; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the benefits of drug-detecting canines are well-  
20 known, and drug-detecting canines are widely utilized by law  
21 enforcement agencies across the globe; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety already deploys a  
24 special operations K9 unit to detect bombs, narcotics, and  
25 currency; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the special operations K9 unit is currently based  
28 in Honolulu and is composed of only five handlers and five  
29 deputy canines, with two specializing in bomb detection, two  
30 specializing in narcotics detection, and one specializing in  
31 currency detection; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, substantially increasing the size and scope of the  
3 special operations K9 unit could have a great impact on  
4 curtailing the State's drug epidemic; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Sheriff is  
9 urged to create a working group to:

- 10  
11 (1) Develop a course of action on how a statewide K9  
12 operations unit could be established and deployed to  
13 combat the drug epidemic in the State; and  
14  
15 (2) Discuss cross jurisdictional issues, if any, among  
16 federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies;  
17 and  
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be convened  
20 by the State Sheriff and include representatives from:

- 21  
22 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security,  
23 Transportation Security Administration;  
24  
25 (2) The United States Drug Enforcement Administration;  
26  
27 (3) Each of the county police departments;  
28  
29 (4) Interested non-profit organizations; and  
30  
31 (5) Other interested community stakeholders; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sheriff is requested to  
34 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
35 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018 that  
36 includes but is not limited to:

- 37  
38 (1) Data and statistics on narcotics and money trafficking  
39 in and out of the State through the State's five major  
40 airports (Hilo International Airport, Kona  
41 International Airport, Kahului Airport, Lihue Airport,  
42 and Honolulu International Airport);



# S.C.R. NO. 130

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- 2 (2) Data and statistics on how the drug epidemic is
- 3 impacting the State's communities;
- 4
- 5 (3) A plan of action and a proposal for the phased-in
- 6 implementation of a statewide K9 special operations
- 7 unit program to combat the State's drug epidemic; and
- 8
- 9 (4) A cost estimate for the proposed statewide K9 special
- 10 operations unit program accounting for necessary
- 11 staff, canines, training, and equipment; and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved  
 14 on June 30, 2018; and

15  
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the State Sheriff;  
 18 United States Department of Homeland Security, Transportation  
 19 Security Administration, Honolulu Office; United States Drug  
 20 Enforcement Administration, Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles  
 21 Division; and the chief of each county police department.

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OFFERED BY:

  
  


