
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO JOINTLY CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO
DEVELOP A PLAN FOR COMBATING 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, substantially increasing the size and scope of the
28 special operations K9 unit could have a great impact on
29 curtailing the State's drug epidemic; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Public Safety and Department of Transportation are urged to
5 jointly convene a working group to:

- 6
7 (1) Develop a course of action and possible operations
8 that could be established and deployed to combat the
9 drug epidemic in the State, including but not limited
10 to the possibility of expanding the use of the special
11 operations K9 unit for drug detection; and
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13 (2) Discuss cross jurisdictional issues, if any, among
14 federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies;
15 and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include
18 representatives from:

- 19
20 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security,
21 Transportation Security Administration;
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23 (2) The United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
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25 (3) The Department of Public Safety;
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27 (4) The Department of Transportation;
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29 (5) The United States Attorney's Office for the District
30 of Hawaii;
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32 (6) The Department of the Attorney General;
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34 (7) The department or office of the Prosecuting Attorney
35 for each county;
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37 (8) Each of the county police departments;
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39 (9) Interested non-profit organizations; and
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41 (10) Other interested community stakeholders; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
2 and Department of Transportation are requested to jointly submit
3 a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2018 that includes but
5 is not limited to:

- 6
- 7 (1) Data and statistics on narcotics and money trafficking
8 in and out of the State through the State's five major
9 airports (Hilo International Airport, Kona
10 International Airport, Kahului Airport, Lihue Airport,
11 and Honolulu International Airport);
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- 13 (2) Data and statistics on how the drug epidemic is
14 impacting the State's communities; and
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- 16 (3) A plan of action to combat the illicit drug abuse
17 epidemic in the State; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
20 on June 30, 2018; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public
24 Safety; Director of Transportation; United States Department of
25 Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration,
26 Honolulu Office; United States Drug Enforcement Administration,
27 Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Division; United States
28 Attorney for the District of Hawaii; Attorney General;
29 Prosecuting Attorney for each county; and chief of each county
30 police department.

