

MAR 10 2017

SENATE 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
4

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
9

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
15

16 WHEREAS, it is essential that the State explore all
17 reasonable options in combatting this public health crisis; and
18

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
22

23 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety already deploys a
24 special operations K9 unit to detect bombs, narcotics, and
25 currency; and
26

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
32



1 WHEREAS, substantially increasing the size and scope of the
2 special operations K9 unit could have a great impact on
3 curtailing the State's drug epidemic; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
7 that the State Sheriff is urged to create a working group to:
8

- 9 (1) Develop a course of action on how a statewide K9
10 operations unit could be established and deployed to
11 combat the drug epidemic in the State; and
12
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 be convened
18 by the State Sheriff and include representatives from:
19

- 20 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security,
21 Transportation Security Administration;
22
23 (2) The United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
24
25 (3) Each of the county police departments;
26
27 (4) Interested non-profit organizations; and
28
29 (5) Other interested community stakeholders; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sheriff is requested to
32 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
33 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018 that
34 includes but is not limited to:
35

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



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

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

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Resolution be transmitted to the State Sheriff; United States
 17 Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security
 18 Administration, Honolulu Office; United States Drug Enforcement
 19 Administration, Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Division;
 20 and the chief of each county police department.

21
 22
 23

OFFERED BY:









