

---

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN  
CERTAIN STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1           WHEREAS, despite longstanding laws that impose criminal  
2 penalties for the possession of marijuana, the use of marijuana  
3 has been increasing nationally, according to the 2017 National  
4 Survey on Drug Use and Health; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the survey, conducted annually by the Substance  
7 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United  
8 States Department of Health and Human Services, estimated that  
9 in 2017, approximately 7,600,000 adults aged eighteen to twenty-  
10 five, or 22.1 percent of adults in that age group, and  
11 16,800,000 adults aged twenty-six or older, or 7.9 percent of  
12 adults in that age group, used marijuana in the preceding month;  
13 and

14  
15           WHEREAS, although Hawaii has been a pioneer in facilitating  
16 the legalization as medical marijuana, which is known as medical  
17 cannabis, the possession of marijuana for non-medical purposes  
18 is still a criminal offense under state and federal law; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, ten other states and the District of Columbia have  
21 legalized adult possession of small amounts of marijuana for  
22 adult recreational use; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, the legalization of non-medical marijuana  
25 possession and use may have a net positive effect on a state's  
26 economy, and may facilitate the enforcement of laws prohibiting  
27 more serious offenses, in part because state resources may be  
28 redirected toward those more serious offenses; and

29  
30           WHEREAS, it is important for the Legislature to have an  
31 understanding of both the potential positive and negative



1 effects of marijuana legalization, especially because the  
2 possession of marijuana remains a criminal offense under federal  
3 law; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
7 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference  
8 Bureau is requested to conduct a study that summarizes the  
9 salient points of existing published reports and studies from  
10 reputable sources that have evaluated:

- 11
- 12 (1) The economic costs and benefits of;
- 13
- 14 (2) Relevant crime statistics before and after; and
- 15
- 16 (3) Relevant positive and negative effects of,
- 17

18 the legalization of the non-medical use of marijuana in the  
19 states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts,  
20 Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and the District  
21 of Columbia; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
24 Bureau is requested to submit its findings to the Legislature no  
25 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
26 Session of 2020; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
30 Legislative Reference Bureau.  
31  
32  
33

OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures and names]*

Dave Raines  
Rachel Lynn  
Hester

Guthrie Huelken  
[Signature]  
[Signature]