
HOUSE 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

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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
32 effects of marijuana legalization, especially because the



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1 possession of marijuana remains a criminal offense under federal
2 law; now, therefore,

3

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

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11 (1) The economic costs and benefits of;

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13 (2) Relevant crime statistics before and after; and

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15 (3) Relevant positive and negative effects of,

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

21

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

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
29 Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY:

Handwritten signatures of representatives offering the bill. The signatures are arranged in two columns. The top signature is a large, stylized signature. Below it are two columns of two signatures each. The signatures are written in black ink on a white background.

