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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A THERAPEUTIC PSILOCYBIN WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE MEDICINAL AND THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS OF PSILOCYBIN AND DEVELOP A LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN, SHOULD FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL FOR MEDICAL USE BE OBTAINED, TO ENABLE THE AVAILABILITY OF THERAPEUTIC PSILOCYBIN OR PSILOCYBIN-BASED PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE FOR ADULTS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

1 WHEREAS, mental health conditions are treated in various  
2 ways depending on the condition and can include medication,  
3 therapy, and psychosocial services; and  
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5 WHEREAS, these treatments, while effective for certain  
6 conditions and patients, do not treat all mental health  
7 conditions; and  
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9 WHEREAS, psilocybin is a naturally-occurring chemical  
10 compound found in certain species of mushrooms; and  
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12 WHEREAS, psilocybin can activate serotonin receptors in the  
13 brain; and  
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15 WHEREAS, studies conducted by nationally and  
16 internationally recognized medical institutions indicate that  
17 psilocybin has shown efficacy, tolerability, and safety in the  
18 treatment of a variety of mental health conditions, including  
19 addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, and end-of-life  
20 psychological distress; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has  
23 determined that preliminary clinical evidence indicates that  
24 psilocybin may demonstrate substantial improvement over  
25 available therapies for treatment-resistant depression and has  
26 granted a breakthrough therapy designation for a treatment that  
27 uses psilocybin as a therapy for treatment-resistant depression;  
28 and



1  
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a shortage of mental health  
3 professionals, and should actively consider novel, innovative,  
4 and safe solutions to treat its citizens; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
8 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a  
9 Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group, to be placed within the  
10 Department of Health for administrative purposes; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
13 Working Group is requested to examine:  
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- 15 (1) Federal, state, and local laws, regulations,  
16 administrative rules, and procedures regarding the  
17 therapeutic use of psilocybin;  
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19 (2) Available medical, psychological, and scientific  
20 studies, research, and other information relating to  
21 the safety and efficacy of psilocybin in treating  
22 mental health conditions; and  
23  
24 (3) The requirements, specifications, and guidelines for a  
25 medical professional to prescribe and provide  
26 psilocybin to patients in jurisdictions where  
27 psilocybin is approved to treat mental health  
28 conditions; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
31 Working Group is requested to develop a long-term strategic  
32 plan, should Food and Drug Administration approval for medical  
33 use be obtained, to enable the availability of therapeutic  
34 psilocybin or psilocybin-based products that are safe,  
35 accessible, and affordable for adults twenty-one years of age or  
36 older; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or  
39 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of  
40 the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group:  
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- (1) The Director of Health, who is requested to serve as chairperson of the working group;
- (2) The Attorney General;
- (3) The Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
- (4) The chairpersons of the Senate and House of Representatives standing committees whose subject matter purview is primarily responsible for reviewing legislation relating to health and the Judiciary;
- (5) The chairperson of the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health;
- (6) A physician duly licensed under chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or advanced practice registered nurse with the authority to prescribe psychotropic medication and duly licensed under chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be invited by the chairperson of the working group; and
- (7) A psychiatrist duly licensed under chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be invited by the chairperson of the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group may invite other interested parties with relevant experience to join the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group is requested to submit:

- (1) A preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
- (2) A final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature



1 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
5 Working Group be dissolved on July 1, 2024; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Attorney  
9 General, and Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

