

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A THERAPEUTIC  
PSILOCYBIN WORKING GROUP.

1           WHEREAS, there is heightened awareness of the detrimental  
2 effects of untreated and maltreated mental health in the State's  
3 population; and

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5           WHEREAS, with a shortage of mental health professionals and  
6 appropriate mental health care, the State must actively consider  
7 innovative and effective treatment options to address this  
8 pressing need; and

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10           WHEREAS, psilocybin has been found to be very effective in  
11 treating a variety of mental health conditions, including but  
12 not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,  
13 anxiety, and end-of-life psychological distress; and

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15           WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has  
16 designated treatment that uses psilocybin in a therapeutic  
17 manner for treatment-resistant depression as a "breakthrough  
18 therapy"; and

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20           WHEREAS, at least two states, Colorado and Oregon, have  
21 found that legalizing medicinal psilocybin is a valuable tool in  
22 dealing with various mental health conditions; and

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24           WHEREAS, Hawaii has a shortage of mental health  
25 professionals and should actively consider novel, innovative,  
26 and safe treatment options to address the pressing need for  
27 appropriate mental health care; now, therefore,

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29           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
31 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a  
32 Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
2 Working Group is requested to examine:

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- 4 (1) Federal, state, and county laws, regulations,  
5 administrative rules, and procedures regarding the  
6 therapeutic use of psilocybin;  
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- 8 (2) Medical, psychological, and scientific studies,  
9 research, and other information relating to the  
10 efficacy and safety of psilocybin or psilocybin-based  
11 products in treating mental health disorders,  
12 including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,  
13 anxiety, and end-of-life psychological distress; and  
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- 15 (3) Existing laws, requirements, and guidelines in  
16 jurisdictions in which psilocybin or psilocybin-based  
17 products are legally used to treat mental health  
18 conditions; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
21 Working Group is requested to determine and develop a long-term  
22 strategic plan to ensure the safe availability and accessibility  
23 of affordable, therapeutic psilocybin or psilocybin-based  
24 products for adults twenty-one years of age or older; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or  
27 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of  
28 the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group:

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- 30 (1) The Director of Health, who shall serve as chairperson  
31 of the Working Group;  
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- 33 (2) The Attorney General;  
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- 35 (3) The Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at  
36 the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
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- 38 (4) The chairperson of the Senate standing committees with  
39 primary jurisdiction over health and Judiciary subject  
40 matters;  
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- 1           (5) The chairperson of the House of Representatives  
2           standing committees with primary jurisdiction over  
3           health and Judiciary subject matters;  
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- 5           (6) The Chairperson of the Hawaii State Council on Mental  
6           Health;  
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- 8           (7) A physician duly licensed pursuant to chapter 453,  
9           Hawaii Revised Statutes, or an advanced practice  
10          registered nurse who is authorized to prescribe  
11          psychotropic medication and is duly licensed pursuant  
12          to chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as invited by  
13          the chairperson of the Working Group; and  
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- 15          (8) A psychiatrist duly licensed pursuant to chapter 453,  
16          Hawaii Revised Statutes, as invited by the chairperson  
17          of the Working Group; and  
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19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the  
20          Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group may invite other interested  
21          parties with relevant experience and expertise to join the  
22          Working Group; and  
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24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
25          Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings  
26          and recommendations, including the long-term strategic plan and  
27          any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
28          twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
29          2024; and  
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31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin  
32          Working Group be dissolved on June 30, 2025; and  
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34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35          Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Attorney  
36          General, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the  
37          University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Chairperson of the Hawaii  
38          State Council on Mental Health.  
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OFFERED BY: 

