
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE SHERIFF TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A
PLAN FOR COMBATING 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
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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
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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
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16 WHEREAS, it is essential that the State explore all
17 reasonable options in combatting this public health crisis; and
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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
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety already deploys a
24 special operations K9 unit to detect bombs, narcotics, and
25 currency; and
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27 WHEREAS, substantially increasing the size and scope of the
28 special operations K9 unit could have a great impact on
29 curtailing the State's drug epidemic; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Sheriff is
4 urged to create a working group to:

- 5
6 (1) Develop a course of action and possible operations
7 that could be established and deployed to combat the
8 drug epidemic in the State, including but not limited
9 to the possibility of expanding the use of the special
10 operations K9 unit for drug detection; and
11
12 (2) Discuss cross jurisdictional issues, if any, among
13 federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies;
14 and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be convened
17 by the State Sheriff and include representatives from:

- 18
19 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security,
20 Transportation Security Administration;
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22 (2) The United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
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24 (3) The Department of Transportation;
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26 (4) The United States Attorney's Office for the District
27 of Hawaii;
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29 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
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31 (6) The department or office of the Prosecuting Attorney
32 for each county;
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34 (7) Each of the county police departments;
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36 (8) Interested non-profit organizations; and
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38 (9) Other interested community stakeholders; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sheriff is requested to
41 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days



1 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018 that
2 includes but is not limited to:

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4 (1) Data and statistics on narcotics and money trafficking
5 in and out of the State through the State's five major
6 airports (Hilo International Airport, Kona
7 International Airport, Kahului Airport, Lihue Airport,
8 and Honolulu International Airport);

9
10 (2) Data and statistics on how the drug epidemic is
11 impacting the State's communities; and

12
13 (3) A plan of action to combat the illicit drug abuse
14 epidemic in the State; and

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

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the State Sheriff;
21 United States Department of Homeland Security, Transportation
22 Security Administration, Honolulu Office; United States Drug
23 Enforcement Administration, Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles
24 Division; United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii;
25 Director of Transportation; Attorney General; Prosecuting
26 Attorney for each county; and the chief of each county police
27 department.

