
SENATE 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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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
33 that the State Sheriff is urged to create a working group to:



- 1
- 2 (1) Develop a course of action and possible operations
- 3 that could be established and deployed to combat the
- 4 drug epidemic in the State, including but not limited
- 5 to the possibility of expanding the use of the special
- 6 operations K9 unit for drug detection; and
- 7
- 8 (2) Discuss cross jurisdictional issues, if any, among
- 9 federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies;
- 10 and
- 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be convened
 13 by the State Sheriff and include representatives from:

- 14
- 15 (1) The United States Department of Homeland Security,
- 16 Transportation Security Administration;
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- 18 (2) The United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
- 19
- 20 (3) The Department of Transportation;
- 21
- 22 (4) The United States Attorney's Office for the District
- 23 of Hawaii;
- 24
- 25 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
- 26
- 27 (6) The department or office of the Prosecuting Attorney
- 28 for each county;
- 29
- 30 (7) Each of the county police departments;
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- 32 (8) Interested non-profit organizations; and
- 33
- 34 (9) Other interested community stakeholders; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sheriff is requested to
 37 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 38 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018 that
 39 includes but is not limited to:

- 40
- 41 (1) Data and statistics on narcotics and money trafficking
- 42 in and out of the State through the State's five major



1 airports (Hilo International Airport, Kona
2 International Airport, Kahului Airport, Lihue Airport,
3 and Honolulu International Airport);
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5 (2) Data and statistics on how the drug epidemic is
6 impacting the State's communities; and
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8 (3) A plan of action to combat the illicit drug abuse
9 epidemic in the State; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
12 on June 30, 2018; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the State Sheriff; United States
16 Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security
17 Administration, Honolulu Office; United States Drug Enforcement
18 Administration, Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Division;
19 United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii; Director of
20 Transportation; Attorney General; Prosecuting Attorney for each
21 county; and the chief of each county police department.

