URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REMOVE MARIJUANA FROM
SCHEDULE I OF THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

WHEREAS, under the federal Controlled Substances Act, the
scheduling of a drug or other substance under schedule I
requires, among other findings, that the drug or other substance
has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United
States; and

WHEREAS, although marijuana is listed under schedule I of
the federal Controlled Substances Act, the medical use of
marijuana in treatment exists and is accepted in 29 states,
including Hawaii, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, and
Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Hawaii's Legislature found that modern
medical research discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in
treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated
with certain debilitating illnesses, and passed Hawaii's medical
use of marijuana law to allow seriously ill individuals in the
State to acquire, possess, and use marijuana for medical
purposes; and

WHEREAS, in light of the growing number of states with
initiatives legalizing marijuana, the United States Attorney
General James M. Cole issued a memorandum in 2013 (Cole
Memorandum) that identified certain enforcement areas that
federal prosecutors should prioritize, and deferred challenging
state marijuana legislation if strict regulatory systems are
imposed protecting those federal priorities; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2018, the United States Attorney
General Jeff Sessions rescinded the Cole Memorandum and issued a
new memorandum instructing United States attorneys to enforce
federal law related to marijuana; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the United States Congress is urged to consider legislation removing marijuana from schedule I of the federal Controlled Substances Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 09 2018