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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATED  
STATEWIDE DISPENSARY SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medical Use of Marijuana Law was enacted  
2 on June 14, 2000, as Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, to  
3 provide medical relief for seriously ill individuals in the  
4 State; and

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6           WHEREAS, implementation of Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii  
7 2000, recognizes the beneficial use of marijuana in treating or  
8 alleviating pain or other symptoms associated with certain  
9 debilitating illnesses, and recognizes the medical benefits of  
10 marijuana; and

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12           WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medical Use of Marijuana Law is silent on  
13 how patients can obtain medical marijuana if they or their  
14 caregivers are unable to grow their own supplies of medical  
15 marijuana; and

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17           WHEREAS, many of the State's almost 13,000 qualifying  
18 patients lack the ability to grow their own supply of medical  
19 marijuana due to a number of factors, including disability,  
20 limited space to grow medical marijuana, and an inadequate  
21 supply of medical marijuana to take care of their medical needs;  
22 and

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24           WHEREAS, a regulated statewide dispensary system for  
25 medical marijuana is urgently needed by qualifying patients in  
26 the State; and

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28           WHEREAS, 20 states and Washington, D.C., have medical  
29 marijuana laws, and 13 of these 20 jurisdictions have an active  
30 regulated system of dispensaries; and



1           WHEREAS, several other states are in the process of  
2 implementing laws relating to the establishment of dispensaries  
3 for medical marijuana; and

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5           WHEREAS, a regulated statewide dispensary system for  
6 medical marijuana will enable qualifying patients to obtain an  
7 inspected, safe supply of medical cannabis that is labeled as to  
8 the composition, strain, and strength of the cannabis to be most  
9 helpful to each patient's condition; and

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11           WHEREAS, in response to Act 29, First Special Session Laws  
12 of Hawaii 2009, the Legislative Reference Bureau published a  
13 report entitled, "Access, Distribution, and Security Components  
14 of State Medical Marijuana Programs," which discussed the  
15 policies and procedures for access, distribution, security, and  
16 other relevant issues related to the medical use of marijuana in  
17 all states that had a medical marijuana program; and

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19           WHEREAS, establishment of a tightly regulated statewide  
20 dispensary system was the number one recommendation of the 2010  
21 Medical Marijuana Working Group; and

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23           WHEREAS, the transfer of Hawaii's Medical Marijuana Program  
24 from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health  
25 in 2015 is an acknowledgement by the Legislature that the  
26 program is a public health program; and

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28           WHEREAS, a tightly regulated dispensary system for medical  
29 marijuana will comport with the spirit and intent of the Medical  
30 Use of Marijuana Law: compassion for Hawaii's suffering  
31 patients and the provision of safe, legal, and reliable access  
32 for qualifying patients; and

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34           WHEREAS, there are many models of medical marijuana  
35 dispensary systems available in other state jurisdictions,  
36 including models that were added to Hawaii's Medical Use of  
37 Marijuana Law after its enactment; and

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39           WHEREAS, to provide equitable access to medical marijuana,  
40 the unique geography of the State with its four counties on  
41 different islands must be considered in the design and  
42 implementation of a regulated statewide dispensary system for  
43 medical marijuana; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2014, that the Public Policy Center in the College of  
4 Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (Public  
5 Policy Center) is requested to convene a Medical Marijuana  
6 Dispensary System Task Force (Task Force) to develop  
7 recommendations for the establishment of a regulated statewide  
8 dispensary system for medical marijuana to provide safe and  
9 legal access to medical marijuana for qualified patients; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be assigned to  
12 the Public Policy Center for administrative purposes and is  
13 requested to make recommendations and propose legislation on the  
14 design and structure of a regulated statewide dispensary system  
15 for medical marijuana; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force comprise:  
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- 19 (1) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's  
20 designee;
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- 22 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;  
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- 24 (3) The Director of Public Safety, or the Director's  
25 designee;
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- 27 (4) The Director of Taxation, or the Director's designee;  
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- 29 (5) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the  
30 Director's designee;
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- 32 (6) The Director of the Public Policy Center, or the  
33 Director's designee;
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- 35 (7) A police chief chosen by the Law Enforcement  
36 Coalition;
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- 38 (8) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health;  
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- 40 (9) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Health;  
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- 42 (10) A state senator who is selected by the Senate  
43 President to serve on the Task Force;



- 1 (11) A state representative who is selected by the Speaker
- 2 of the House of Representatives to serve on the Task
- 3 Force;
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- 5 (12) A representative from the University of Hawaii College
- 6 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
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- 8 (13) A representative of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii;
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- 10 (14) A physician participating in Hawaii's Medical
- 11 Marijuana Program;
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- 13 (15) Two patients participating in Hawaii's Medical
- 14 Marijuana Program, one of whom is a patient who is
- 15 over the age of 18, and one of whom is a parent or
- 16 guardian of a patient who is under the age of ten;
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- 18 (16) A caregiver participating in Hawaii's Medical
- 19 Marijuana Program;
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- 21 (17) A representative from the American Civil Liberties
- 22 Union of Hawaii; and
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- 24 (18) A representative from the Hawaii Medical Association;
- 25 and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issues to be addressed by  
 28 the Task Force include the appropriate number and location of  
 29 dispensaries statewide; the design of a tax structure (state and  
 30 county); location and restriction issues; methodology for  
 31 ensuring safety of supply; a framework for cultivating and  
 32 manufacturing medical marijuana products; regulations to ensure  
 33 security and public safety; restrictions on advertising; issues  
 34 raised and compliance with any guidelines and/or directives  
 35 issued by federal agencies with respect to medical marijuana;  
 36 and

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 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than September 1,  
 39 2014, the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to complete  
 40 and submit to the Task Force an updated report on the policies  
 41 and procedures for access, distribution, security, and other  
 42 relevant issues related to the medical use of cannabis in all  
 43 states that currently have a medical cannabis program; and

1 BE IT RESOLVED that, as part of its report, the Legislative  
2 Reference Bureau is requested to examine and include information  
3 concerning the policies and procedures adopted by other states  
4 relating to the growth and cultivation of medical marijuana and  
5 the regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
8 hold at least one public hearing to receive public input on the  
9 updated report received from the Legislative Reference Bureau  
10 containing the policies and procedures for access, distribution,  
11 security, and other relevant issues related to the medical use  
12 of cannabis in all states that currently have a medical cannabis  
13 program; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
16 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
17 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20  
18 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the  
22 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Attorney  
23 General, Director of Health, Director of Public Safety, Director  
24 of Taxation, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director  
25 of the Public Policy Center in the College of Social Sciences at  
26 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Executive Director of the  
27 American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, Executive Director of  
28 the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, Dean of the University of  
29 Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,  
30 Executive Director of the Hawaii Medical Association, Law  
31 Enforcement Coalition, and Acting Director of the Legislative  
32 Reference Bureau.

