REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A MEDICINAL PSilocybin AND Psilocin WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE MEDICINAL AND THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS OF PSilocybin AND Psilocin AND DEVELOP A LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINAL PSilocybin AND Psilocin OR PSilocybin-BASED AND Psilocin-BASED PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE FOR ELIGIBLE ADULT PATIENTS.

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are treated in various ways depending on the condition and can include medication, therapy, and psychosocial services; and

WHEREAS, these treatments, while effective for certain conditions and patients, do not treat all mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, psilocybin and psilocin occur naturally in certain species of mushrooms; and

WHEREAS, psilocybin and psilocin are natural chemicals that can activate serotonin receptors in the brain; and

WHEREAS, studies conducted by nationally and internationally recognized medical institutions indicate that psilocybin and psilocin have shown efficacy, tolerability, and safety in the treatment of a variety of mental health conditions, including addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, and end-of-life psychological distress; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has determined that preliminary clinical evidence indicates that psilocybin and psilocin may demonstrate substantial improvement over available therapies for major depressive disorder and severe treatment-resistant depression and has granted a breakthrough therapy designation for a treatment that uses psilocybin and psilocin as a therapy for these mental health conditions; and
WHEREAS, Hawaii has a shortage of mental health professionals and should actively consider novel, innovative, and safe solutions to treat its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group, to be placed in the Department of Health for administrative purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group is requested to examine:

1. Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, administrative rules, and procedures regarding the medicinal use of psilocybin and psilocin;
2. Available medical, psychological, and scientific studies, research, and other information relating to the safety and efficacy of psilocybin and psilocin in treating mental health conditions; and
3. Requirements, specifications, and guidelines for a medical professional to prescribe and provide psilocybin and psilocin to patients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if feasible, the Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group is requested to develop a long-term strategic plan to ensure the availability of medicinal psilocybin and psilocin or psilocybin-based and psilocin-based products that are safe, accessible, and affordable for adults twenty-one years of age or older; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of the Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group:

1. The Director of Health, who is requested to serve as chair;
2. The Attorney General;
(3) Faculty members from the University of Hawaii System with relevant scientific expertise;

(4) The chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives standing committees whose subject matter purview is primarily responsible for reviewing legislation relating to health and the Judiciary;

(5) A clinical practitioner licensed to prescribe psychotropic medication in the State of Hawaii;

(6) A representative of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, to be invited by the chair of the working group;

(7) A representative of the Clarity Project, to be invited by the chair of the working group;

(8) A representative of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, to be invited by the chair of the working group; and

(9) A representative of the public with psychedelics-related industry experience, to be invited by the chair of the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group may invite other interested parties with relevant experience to join the working group, provided that the working group does not exceed fifteen members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group is requested to submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024, and a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Medicinal Psilocybin and Psilocin Working Group be dissolved on July 1, 2025; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, who in turn shall notify the non-governmental organizations represented in the working group; Attorney General; and President of the University of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: [Signature]