
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more information is
2 needed to assess the efficacy of "weed and seed" programs, and
3 to determine the impact of the programs on the State's
4 communities. Weed and seed programs, originally founded by
5 former president George H. W. Bush, involve increased policing
6 in communities having high crime rates. Some evidence suggests
7 that this strategy disproportionately targets marginalized
8 communities and results in the militarization or over-policing
9 of low-income neighborhoods. The program may also result in
10 unjustly high criminal sentences for persons who happen to be
11 arrested in designated weed and seed areas.

12 The legislature believes that the State should reevaluate
13 weed and seed programs in Hawaii to ensure that the programs are
14 effective at reducing crime without militarizing the State's
15 neighborhoods or disproportionately impacting marginalized
16 communities.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a task
2 force on ethical policing to evaluate the efficacy and impact of
3 weed and seed programs.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be established a task force on
5 ethical policing within the department of the attorney general
6 for administrative purposes. The task force shall comprise:

- 7 (1) A representative from the department of the attorney
8 general;
- 9 (2) A representative from each branch office of the office
10 of the public defender;
- 11 (3) A representative from the office of the prosecuting
12 attorney for each county;
- 13 (4) A representative from the Hawaii correctional system
14 oversight commission;
- 15 (5) A representative from the judiciary;
- 16 (6) A representative from the office of the governor;
- 17 (7) The president of the senate, or the president's
18 designee;
- 19 (8) The speaker of the house of representatives, or the
20 speaker's designee;



1 (9) A representative from the university of Hawaii college
2 of social sciences having a background in criminal
3 justice research;

4 (10) A representative from an organization involved with
5 the communities affected by weed and seed programs;
6 and

7 (11) A member of the public having a background in criminal
8 justice work, who shall be selected and invited to
9 participate by the chair of the task force.

10 (b) At its initial meeting, which shall occur no later
11 than thirty days after the effective date of this Act, the task
12 force shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members.

13 (c) A majority of the task force members shall constitute
14 a quorum to do business.

15 (d) The task force shall use crime, arrest, prosecution,
16 and policing data from the onset of weed and seed programs in
17 Hawaii, compiled with the assistance of the Hawaii criminal
18 justice data center, to evaluate the efficacy and impact of weed
19 and seed programs in Hawaii, including the programs' effect on:

20 (1) Crime rates in designated weed and seed areas;



- 1 (2) Crime rates in communities adjacent to designated weed
2 and seed areas;
- 3 (3) Arrest rates in designated weed and seed areas for
4 persons who are black, indigenous, or persons of
5 color, including Native Hawaiians and Pacific
6 Islanders;
- 7 (4) Arrest rates in designated weed and seed areas for
8 low-income persons and unsheltered persons;
- 9 (5) Average sentence lengths for persons arrested in
10 designated weed and seed areas;
- 11 (6) The average number of law enforcement officers present
12 in designated weed and seed areas; and
- 13 (7) The perception of residents who live and work in
14 designated weed and seed areas of the quality and
15 frequency of their encounters with law enforcement
16 officers.
- 17 (e) The task force shall seek input from residents who
18 live and work in designated weed and seed areas for purposes of
19 subsection (d) (7).
- 20 (f) Members of the task force shall serve without
21 compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,



1 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
2 their duties.

3 (g) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
4 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the regular session of 2025.

7 (h) The task force on ethical policing shall cease to
8 exist on July 1, 2025.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Law Enforcement; Task Force; Weed and Seed Programs; Report

Description:

Establishes a task force on ethical policing to evaluate the efficacy and impact of Weed and Seed programs. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

