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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK  
FORCE ON ETHICAL POLICING TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY AND  
IMPACT OF WEED AND SEED PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, Weed and Seed programs were originally developed  
2 by former President George H. W. Bush and involve increased  
3 policing in communities having high crime rates; and  
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5           WHEREAS, evidence suggests that this strategy  
6 disproportionately targets marginalized communities and results  
7 in the militarization or over-policing of low-income  
8 neighborhoods; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the program may also result in unjustly high  
11 criminal sentences for persons who are arrested in designated  
12 Weed and Seed areas; and  
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14           WHEREAS, a reevaluation of Hawaii's Weed and Seed programs  
15 is needed to ensure that the programs are effective at reducing  
16 crime without militarizing the State's neighborhoods or  
17 disproportionately impacting marginalized communities; now,  
18 therefore  
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20           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
22 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
23 Law Enforcement is urged to establish a task force on ethical  
24 policing to evaluate the efficacy and impact of Weed and Seed  
25 programs in the State; and  
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27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
28 comprise:  
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# H.C.R. NO. 217

- 1 (1) A representative from the Department of the Attorney  
2 General;
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- 4 (2) A representative from each branch office of the Office  
5 of the Public Defender;
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- 7 (3) A representative from the Office of the Prosecuting  
8 Attorney for each county;
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- 10 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Correctional System  
11 Oversight Commission;
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- 13 (5) A representative from the Judiciary;
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- 15 (6) A representative from the Department of Law  
16 Enforcement;
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- 18 (7) A representative from the Office of the Governor;
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- 20 (8) The President of the Senate, or the President's  
21 designee;
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- 23 (9) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the  
24 Speaker's designee;
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- 26 (10) A representative from the University of Hawaii College  
27 of Social Sciences having a background in criminal  
28 justice research;
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- 30 (11) A representative from an organization involved with  
31 the communities affected by Weed and Seed programs, to  
32 be selected and invited to participate by the chair of  
33 the task force; and
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- 35 (12) A member of the public having a background in criminal  
36 justice work, to be selected and invited to  
37 participate by the chair of the task force; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is urged to use  
40 crime, arrest, prosecution, and policing data from the onset of  
41 Weed and Seed programs in Hawaii, compiled with the assistance  
42 of the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, to evaluate the



# H.C.R. NO. 217

1 efficacy and impact of Weed and Seed programs in Hawaii,  
2 including the programs' effect on:

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- 4 (1) Crime rates in designated Weed and Seed areas;
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- 6 (2) Crime rates in communities adjacent to designated Weed  
7 and Seed areas;
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- 9 (3) Arrest rates in designated Weed and Seed areas for  
10 persons who are black, indigenous, or persons of  
11 color, including Native Hawaiians and Pacific  
12 Islanders;
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- 14 (4) Arrest rates in designated Weed and Seed areas for  
15 low-income persons and unsheltered persons;
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- 17 (5) Average sentence lengths for persons arrested in  
18 designated Weed and Seed areas and convicted of the  
19 subject offense;
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- 21 (6) The average number of law enforcement officers present  
22 in designated Weed and Seed areas; and
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- 24 (7) The perception of residents and workers in designated  
25 Weed and Seed areas of the quality and frequency of  
26 their encounters with law enforcement officers; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
29 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
30 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
31 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
32 2025; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney  
36 General, Public Defender, Prosecuting Attorney from each county,  
37 Chief Justice, Director of Law Enforcement, Dean of the  
38 University of Hawaii College of Social Sciences, and  
39 Administrator of the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center.  
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 08 2024

