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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Weed and Seed  
2 Strategy is a United States Department of Justice initiative  
3 that is administered locally by the United States Attorney's  
4 Office. Initiated in 1992, the strategy currently includes more  
5 than three hundred sites in two hundred twenty-six cities across  
6 the country.

7           The Weed and Seed Strategy is a collaborative effort among  
8 law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and county  
9 levels, social service agencies, private businesses, nonprofit  
10 organizations, and residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild  
11 communities. The four key elements of the Weed and Seed  
12 Strategy are:

- 13           (1) Law enforcement;  
14           (2) Community policing;  
15           (3) Prevention, intervention, and treatment programs; and  
16           (4) Neighborhood restoration.



1           The Weed and Seed Strategy works with local law enforcement  
2 to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and  
3 gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by "weeding" out the  
4 criminal element in the community. Community policing involves  
5 having police officers work closely with community residents to  
6 develop solutions to violent and drug-related crimes. The next  
7 step is to "seed" the community with human services that include  
8 prevention, intervention treatment, and neighborhood  
9 revitalization.

10           The legislature finds that the state has benefited greatly  
11 from Weed and Seed Programs at sites on Oahu that encompass Ala  
12 Moana, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa Beach. Since  
13 the implementation of the strategy, crime in those areas has  
14 been reduced significantly. The legislature further finds that  
15 the strategy's success warrants maintaining the operations of  
16 the Weed and Seed Program in these communities, and envisions  
17 expanding it to other communities in the future.

18           The purpose of this Act is to:

19           (1) Establish a permanent Weed and Seed Program within the  
20           department of the attorney general to continue its  
21           success; and



1           (2) Appropriate funds for a grant-in-aid to PACT to  
2           maintain the operations of the Weed and Seed Program  
3           in the Ala Moana, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu,  
4           and Ewa Beach communities on Oahu.

5           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
6 of the attorney general the Weed and Seed Program to reduce  
7 crime and improve the quality of life for residents and  
8 neighborhoods in the state. The program shall be a  
9 collaborative effort among residents, law enforcement agencies,  
10 social service providers, educators, area businesses, and other  
11 resource agencies and support organizations to:

12           (1) Create, initiate, implement, and support responsible,  
13           community-based activities, projects, and services  
14           that help reduce crime and drug use in neighborhoods;

15           (2) Engage members of the community to encourage the  
16           development and maintenance of economic and social  
17           well-being; and

18           (3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on  
19           sustainable results.

20           (b) The state Weed and Seed Program shall be guided by a  
21 resource committee composed of representatives from various  
22 public and private sectors, including but not limited to:



- 1 (1) Federal agencies such as the United States Attorney's  
2 Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the  
3 United States Department of Housing and Urban  
4 Development;
- 5 (2) State agencies such as the department of education,  
6 department of health, department of human services,  
7 department of public safety, Hawaii public housing  
8 authority, the office of the governor, and the office  
9 of the lieutenant governor;
- 10 (3) County agencies such as the office of the mayor,  
11 managing director, office of special projects, the  
12 prosecuting attorney, and the chief of police;
- 13 (4) Community and trade organizations such as Aloha United  
14 Way, YMCA of Honolulu, Honolulu Board of Realtors,  
15 Hawaii Tax Foundation, and other health, human  
16 service, and trade organizations; and
- 17 (5) Private businesses and corporate entities.
- 18 (c) The Weed and Seed Program resource committee shall, no  
19 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
20 session of the legislature, submit a report to the legislature  
21 and the governor on its activities, including projects completed



1 or ongoing, funds expended, and other relevant data or  
2 information on the program.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2008-2009 as a grant-in-aid pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii  
8 Revised Statutes, to Parents and Children Together to maintain  
9 the operations of the Weed and Seed Program in the Ala Moana,  
10 downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa Beach communities on  
11 Oahu.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
13 of the attorney general through a contract with Parents and  
14 Children Together for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 30, 2112.



**Report Title:**

Weed & Seed Program; Permanent Establishment; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a permanent Weed and Seed Program within the Department of the Attorney General. Appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to maintain the operations of the Weed and Seed program in the Ala Moana, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa beach communities on Oahu, to be expended by the Department of the Attorney General through a contract with PACT.  
(HB969 HD1)

