

JAN 19 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that developing and
2 implementing an effective and comprehensive drug policy is vital
3 to improving the health and safety of the citizens of the State.
4 Drug addiction is a public health issue and accurate data to
5 develop effective and fiscally responsible policies have not
6 been available. Drug issues intersect with many other issues in
7 the community, including homelessness, violence in the home,
8 after-school programs, incarceration, property crime, health
9 care, employment, foster care, and judiciary costs.

10 The complexity of the problem and the number of state and
11 county departments responsible for implementing programs has
12 resulted in conflicting and ineffective plans of action among
13 the various agencies.

14 The development of a comprehensive state drug policy should
15 be based on accurate data and an assessment of the effectiveness
16 of current programs, including contracting an independent public
17 policy research organization to provide information to the



1 legislature. The study should review the State's various drug
2 policies and strategies and provide the cost effectiveness of
3 the various programs over the last five years. The information
4 should include the following:

- 5 (1) Demographics, education levels, types of drug
6 convictions, duration of sentences, drug assessments,
7 participation and effectiveness of drug programs,
8 recidivism rates;
- 9 (2) Survey of drug program effectiveness in Hawaii's
10 public and charter schools;
- 11 (3) Cost, enrollment, and availability of after school
12 programs to the State and parents;
- 13 (4) Foster-care and adoptions related to drug usage and
14 incarceration and demographics;
- 15 (5) Per cent of homeless with drug problems and whether
16 drug use affects finding available homes;
- 17 (6) Number of students turned down for higher education
18 loans due to drug convictions;
- 19 (7) Employment drug policies, number of employees turned
20 down for employment or promotion due to drug
21 conviction, termination, number of employees provided



- 1 with drug treatment programs, and number of
- 2 organizations with zero tolerance policies;
- 3 (8) Treatment programs, availability of beds, duration of
- 4 waiting list, number and reasons of participants
- 5 turned away, and any special needs of patients;
- 6 (9) Judiciary costs related to the drug crimes;
- 7 (10) Law enforcement cost related to drug crimes; and
- 8 (11) Environmental clean-up costs.

9 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for a
 10 comprehensive study to provide the information necessary for the
 11 legislature to develop effective drug policies.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$88,090, or so much
 14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to the
 15 department of _____ to contract with an independent
 16 public policy research organization to conduct the study.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 18 _____ for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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Report Title:

Public Health; Funding for Comprehensive State Drug Policy Study

Description:

Appropriates funding for a state drug policy study in order to provide the legislature with information to develop a comprehensive drug policy.

