

MAR 11 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE FAIR WAGES FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA
DISPENSARY EMPLOYEES.

1 WHEREAS, in 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215,
2 making it the first state in the Union to allow for the medical
3 use of marijuana and since then, 23 states, the District of
4 Columbia, and Guam have enacted similar laws; and
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6 WHEREAS, the legalization of marijuana for strictly medical
7 use pursuant to Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, is
8 intended to provide medical relief for seriously ill individuals
9 in the State; and
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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's medical marijuana program laws were
12 silent for 15 years on how patients could obtain medical
13 marijuana if they or their caregivers are unable to grow their
14 own supply of medical marijuana; and
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16 WHEREAS, Act 241, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established
17 a licensing system for medical marijuana dispensaries whereby
18 the Department of Health may issue up to eight medical marijuana
19 dispensary licenses statewide and each licensee may establish up
20 to two retail dispensing locations; and
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22 WHEREAS, each dispensary licensee may commence dispensing
23 medical marijuana and manufactured marijuana products no sooner
24 than July 15, 2016; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Department of Health received 66 dispensary
27 applications for the eight available licenses, which will be
28 awarded by April 15, 2016; and
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30 WHEREAS, medical marijuana dispensaries will boost the
31 economy and create numerous jobs in the State, including support
32 staff, security, product reviewers, growers, and manufacturers
33 within production centers and dispensaries; and
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1 WHEREAS, notwithstanding state and federal minimum wage
2 laws, no state that has medical marijuana dispensaries has
3 established a fair wage for industry employees; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii consistently places last in cost of living,
6 affordability, necessities, and utilities cost rankings, with an
7 average home price of \$868,317 in Honolulu Metro; and
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9 WHEREAS, on March 2, 2016, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser
10 reported that according to a new Bankrate.com report, "Hawaii is
11 the sixth-worst state for retirement largely because it has the
12 nation's highest cost of living and has high taxes"; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser also reported that
15 "Honolulu is the second most expensive place to live, with homes
16 that average about \$925,922 - triple the average price in the
17 U.S., according to the Council for Community and Economic
18 Research"; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents pay an individual maximum income
21 tax rate of 11 percent, second highest in the country; and
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23 WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to ensure that the new
24 medical marijuana dispensary workforce is fairly compensated to
25 afford the basic cost of living in Hawaii; and
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27 WHEREAS, a fair wage established by the Department of Labor
28 and Industrial Relations would enable just compensation in the
29 industry; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
33 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is
34 requested to conduct a study to determine fair wages for medical
35 marijuana dispensary employees; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
38 Industrial Relations, with the cooperation of the Department of
39 Health, is requested to identify the necessary positions in
40 medical marijuana dispensaries; and
41



S.R. NO. 66

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
2 Industrial Relations is requested to submit a report of its
3 findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and
8 Industrial Relations and Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

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