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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO ALLOW INJURED PLAYERS TO  
USE CANNABIDIOL IN PILL OR LIQUID FORM, IN LIEU OF OPIOIDS,  
TO ADDRESS THE PAIN FROM THEIR WORK-RELATED INJURIES.

1           WHEREAS, every day, more than 90 Americans die after  
2 overdosing on opioids, including prescription pain relievers,  
3 heroin, and synthetic opioids such as illicitly manufactured  
4 fentanyl; and

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6           WHEREAS, the misuse of and addiction to opioids is a  
7 serious national crisis that affects public health as well as  
8 social and economic welfare; and

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10          WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 estimates that the total economic burden of prescription opioid  
12 misuse alone in the United States is \$78,500,000,000 per year,  
13 including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction  
14 treatment, and involvement with the criminal justice system; and

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16          WHEREAS, in 2015, more than 33,000 Americans died as a  
17 result of an opioid overdose and an estimated 2,000,000  
18 individuals in the United States suffered from substance use  
19 disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers, and  
20 591,000 suffered from a heroin use disorder; and

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22          WHEREAS, approximately 21 to 29 percent of patients who are  
23 prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them; between eight  
24 and 12 percent develop an opioid use disorder; an estimated four  
25 to six percent of individuals who misuse prescription opioids  
26 transition to heroin; and about 80 percent of individuals who  
27 use heroin first misused prescription opioids; and

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29          WHEREAS, this situation has become a public health crisis  
30 with devastating consequences, including increases in opioid



1 misuse and related overdoses as well as a rising incidence of  
2 neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opioid use and misuse during  
3 pregnancy; and

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5 WHEREAS, the increase in injection drug use has also  
6 contributed to the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and  
7 hepatitis C; and

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9 WHEREAS, many National Football League players suffer from  
10 serious injuries during their careers due to the nature of their  
11 work and are often prescribed opioids to help alleviate the pain  
12 from their injuries; and

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14 WHEREAS, the dangers of overuse and abuse of opioids have  
15 been well-documented; and

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17 WHEREAS, however, research studies have demonstrated that  
18 cannabidiol is non-intoxicating but exerts a number of  
19 beneficial pharmacological effects--for instance, cannabidiol is  
20 anxiolytic, anti-inflammatory, antiemetic, and antipsychotic;  
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, although cannabidiol is a component of marijuana,  
24 it does not produce the psychoactive effects that have made  
25 marijuana attractive for recreational use; and

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27 WHEREAS, it may be preferable for and beneficial to the  
28 health and well-being of injured football players to be allowed  
29 to use cannabidiol in pill or liquid form, in lieu of opioids,  
30 to address the pain from their work-related injuries; now,  
31 therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
35 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the National Football  
36 League is urged to allow injured National Football League  
37 players to use cannabidiol in pill or liquid form, in lieu of  
38 opioids, to address the pain from work-related injuries; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of the



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1 National Football League and the respective General Managers of  
2 each of the teams that compose the National Football League.

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OFFERED BY:

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