
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS
ON STATES OF STATE LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS FOR ADULT
RECREATIONAL USE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii and twenty-seven other states, the District
2 of Columbia, and the United States territories of Guam and
3 Puerto Rico have legalized the use of medical cannabis for the
4 treatment of certain qualifying medical conditions; and
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6 WHEREAS, the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine,
7 Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington have approved the
8 legalization of adult recreational cannabis; and
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10 WHEREAS, the states that have legalized the adult
11 recreational use of cannabis generated approximately
12 \$655,000,000 in combined state tax revenue in 2017; and
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14 WHEREAS, the State's main economic engine is tourism, and
15 visitor numbers continue to increase year-over-year with a
16 record-breaking 8,900,000 visitors to Hawaii in 2016; and
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18 WHEREAS, visitors from states with legal adult recreational
19 cannabis account for approximately one-third of the total annual
20 visitors to Hawaii; and
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22 WHEREAS, the State has a need for additional tax revenue
23 for a number of unfunded and underfunded mandates and
24 priorities, as well as for new investments and enterprise; now,
25 therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2018, that the Governor is urged to convene a task force to
30 study the effects on states of state legalization of cannabis
31 for adult recreational use of cannabis; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
34 include the following members or each member's respective
35 designee:



- (1) Lieutenant Governor;
- (2) Director of Health;
- (3) Director of Taxation;
- (4) Director of Public Safety;
- (5) Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i;
- (6) Administrator of the Honolulu Liquor Commission;
- (7) Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i; and
- (8) Director of Hawaii Citizens for Legal Cannabis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with guidance and administrative support from the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to study:

- (1) The advantages and disadvantages of state legalization of cannabis;
- (2) Tax revenues projected and realized as a result of state legalization of cannabis;
- (3) Impacts on state judicial and correctional systems and associated costs; and
- (4) The financial and enforcement impacts on other states that have not legalized the adult recreational use of cannabis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force and Legislative Reference Bureau may consult with any public or private entity that may be of assistance, and any public entity of the State is requested to assist the task force by providing requested information or other assistance deemed relevant to the study; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Director of Health; Director of Taxation; Director of Public Safety; Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i; Administrator of the Honolulu Liquor Commission; Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i; and Director of Hawaii Citizens for Legal Cannabis.

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