

JAN 20 2017

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIME REDUCTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that weed and seed is a  
2 strategy sponsored by the United States Department of Justice  
3 and is administered locally by the United States Attorney's  
4 Office for the District of Hawaii. Initiated in 1992, weed and  
5 seed was developed to demonstrate an innovative and  
6 comprehensive approach to law enforcement and community  
7 revitalization.

8           The weed and seed strategy is a collaborative effort among  
9 law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and county  
10 levels, social service agencies, private businesses, nonprofit  
11 organizations, and residents to reclaim, restore, and rebuild  
12 communities.

13           The four key elements of the weed and seed strategy are:

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



1           The legislature finds that the weed and seed strategy is  
2 currently being implemented in over one hundred fifty  
3 communities across the country. The State has benefited greatly  
4 from weed and seed programs at sites on Oahu that encompass Ala  
5 Moana, Chinatown, downtown Honolulu, Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa  
6 Beach. Since the implementation of the strategy, crime in those  
7 areas has been reduced significantly. The legislature further  
8 finds that the strategy's success warrants maintaining the  
9 operations of the weed and seed program in these communities,  
10 and expanding it to other communities in the future.

11           The purpose of this Act is to establish a permanent weed  
12 and seed strategy within the department of labor and industrial  
13 relations, and make an appropriation for the weed and seed  
14 strategy.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 371K, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
17 and to read as follows:

18           "§371K- Weed and seed strategy. (a) There is  
19 established within the department of labor and industrial  
20 relations the weed and seed strategy to reduce crime and improve  
21 the quality of life for residents and neighborhoods in the



1 State. The weed and seed strategy shall be a collaborative  
2 effort among community residents, law enforcement agencies,  
3 social service providers, educators, area businesses, and other  
4 resource agencies and support organizations to:

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

8 (2) Engage members of the community to encourage the  
9 development and maintenance of economic and social  
10 well-being; and

11 (3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on  
12 sustainable results.

13 (b) The office of community services shall:

14 (1) Administer appropriations and other funding for the  
15 weed and seed strategy; and

16 (2) Identify or assist in identifying those areas to  
17 implement for the weed and seed strategy.

18 (c) The weed and seed strategy shall be guided by an  
19 advisory committee, exempt from section 26-34, composed of  
20 representatives selected by the executive director of the office



1 of community services from various public and private sectors,  
2 including:

3       (1) Federal agencies, including the United States  
4           Attorney's Office, the United States Drug Enforcement  
5           Administration, and the United States Department of  
6           Housing and Urban Development;

7       (2) State agencies, including the department of education,  
8           department of health, department of human services,  
9           department of labor and industrial relations,  
10          department of public safety, Hawaii public housing  
11          authority, the office of the governor, and the office  
12          of the lieutenant governor;

13       (3) County agencies, including the mayor, the prosecuting  
14          attorney, the chief of police, and other appropriate  
15          departments and agencies; and

16       (4) Community organizations engaged in providing health  
17          and human services.

18       (d) The weed and seed advisory committee shall, no later  
19          than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session  
20          of the legislature, submit a report to the legislature and the  
21          governor on its activities, including projects completed or



1 ongoing, funds expended, and other relevant data or information  
2 on the weed and seed strategy."

3 SECTION 3. Section 371K-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) There is established within the department of labor  
6 and industrial relations, for administrative purposes only, an  
7 office of community services. The following shall be among the  
8 programs to be under the auspices of and coordinated through the  
9 office:

- 10 (1) Progressive neighborhoods program;
- 11 (2) Hawaii office of economic opportunity;
- 12 (3) Refugee resettlement program; [~~and~~]
- 13 (4) State immigrant services center[~~-~~]; and
- 14 (5) Weed and seed strategy."

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
19 2018-2019 to maintain the weed and seed strategy in areas  
20 currently designated for weed and seed strategy and to expand  
21 the weed and seed strategy into other areas of the State;



1 provided that any appropriation shall be conditioned on  
2 obtaining federal funding for the weed and seed strategy in a  
3 designated area.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
5 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.  
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INTRODUCED BY: Clarene R. Richman

Will Eyo

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# S.B. NO. 607

**Report Title:**

Weed and Seed Strategy; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates a permanent weed and seed strategy within the department of labor and industrial relations, office of community service. Appropriates funds subject to federal funding.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

