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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL REVENUE TO BE  
GENERATED FOR THE STATE THROUGH THE LEGALIZATION AND  
REGULATION OF RECREATIONAL CANNABIS.

1           WHEREAS, recreational cannabis has been legalized in  
2 fifteen states and the District of Columbia; and

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4           WHEREAS, Colorado was the first state to remove the  
5 prohibition on commercial production of cannabis for general  
6 use; and

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8           WHEREAS, Colorado collected \$67,594,323 from medical and  
9 retail cannabis taxes and fees during its first year of retail  
10 cannabis sales in 2014 and \$302,458,426 in 2019; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, since it legalized and started to regulate  
13 recreational cannabis in 2014, Colorado has collected a total of  
14 \$1,456,299,835 in state tax revenues as of February 2021; and

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16           WHEREAS, according to the Marijuana Policy Project, other  
17 states have also generated significant state tax revenues from  
18 adult-use sales, with Washington generating \$2,269,633,880,  
19 California generating \$1,811,300,000, and Oregon generating  
20 \$497,279,214 to date, excluding medical cannabis tax revenue;  
21 and

22  
23           WHEREAS, according to the Marijuana Policy Project, as of  
24 February 2021, states reported a combined total of  
25 \$6,900,000,000 in tax revenue from legal, adult-use marijuana  
26 sales; and

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28           WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted Hawaii's economy,  
29 resulting in an anticipated budget shortfall of \$1,400,000,000  
30 per year for the next four years; and



# H.R. NO. 45

1 WHEREAS, it is necessary to create new sources of revenue  
2 to allow the State to meet its strategic goals, preserve  
3 essential services, and prevent program cuts and pay reductions  
4 for working families; and

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6 WHEREAS, the legalization of cannabis for personal or  
7 recreational use is a natural, logical, and reasonable outgrowth  
8 of the current science of and public attitude toward cannabis;  
9 now, therefore,

10  
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
13 of 2021, that the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
14 and Tourism is requested to conduct a study on the potential  
15 revenue to be generated for the State through the legalization  
16 and regulation of recreational cannabis; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
19 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to consult with  
20 the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation, University of  
21 Hawaii Economic Research Organization, and Hawaii Cannabis  
22 Industry Association in conducting the study; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
25 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a  
26 report of its findings and recommendations from the study,  
27 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
28 than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2022; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic  
32 Development, and Tourism; Chairman of the Board of Directors of  
33 the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation; Executive Director  
34 of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization; and  
35 Executive Director of the Hawaii Cannabis Industry Association.

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38 OFFERED BY:



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