

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A THERAPEUTIC
PSILOCYBIN WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE MEDICINAL AND
THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS OF PSILOCYBIN AND DEVELOP A LONG-TERM
STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINAL
PSILOCYBIN OR PSILOCYBIN-BASED PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE,
ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE FOR ELIGIBLE ADULT PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, mental health conditions are treated in various
2 ways depending on the condition and can include medication,
3 therapy, and psychosocial services; and
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5 WHEREAS, these treatments, while effective for certain
6 conditions and patients, do not treat all mental health
7 conditions; and
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9 WHEREAS, psilocybin is a naturally-occurring chemical
10 compound found in certain species of mushrooms; and
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12 WHEREAS, psilocybin can activate serotonin receptors in the
13 brain; and
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15 WHEREAS, studies conducted by nationally and
16 internationally recognized medical institutions indicate that
17 psilocybin has shown efficacy, tolerability, and safety in the
18 treatment of a variety of mental health conditions, including
19 addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, and end-of-life
20 psychological distress; and
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22 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has
23 determined that preliminary clinical evidence indicates that
24 psilocybin may demonstrate substantial improvement over
25 available therapies for treatment-resistant depression and has
26 granted a breakthrough therapy designation for a treatment that
27 uses psilocybin as a therapy for treatment-resistant depression;
28 and



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2 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a shortage of mental health
3 professionals, and should actively consider novel, innovative,
4 and safe solutions to treat its citizens; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
9 Health is requested to convene a Therapeutic Psilocybin Working
10 Group, to be placed in the Department of Health for
11 administrative purposes; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin
14 Working Group is requested to examine:
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- 16 (1) Federal, state, and local laws, regulations,
17 administrative rules, and procedures regarding the
18 therapeutic use of psilocybin;
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20 (2) Available medical, psychological, and scientific
21 studies, research, and other information relating to
22 the safety and efficacy of psilocybin in treating
23 mental health conditions; and
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25 (3) Requirements, specifications, and guidelines for a
26 medical professional to prescribe and provide
27 psilocybin to patients in jurisdictions where
28 psilocybin is used to treat mental health conditions;
29 and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin
32 Working Group is requested to develop a long-term strategic plan
33 to ensure the availability of therapeutic psilocybin or
34 psilocybin-based products that are safe, accessible, and
35 affordable for adults twenty-one years of age or older; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or
38 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of
39 the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group:



- 1 (1) The Director of Health, who is requested to serve as
2 chairperson of the working group;
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- 4 (2) The Attorney General;
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- 6 (3) The Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at
7 the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
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- 9 (4) The chairpersons of the Senate and House of
10 Representatives standing committees whose subject
11 matter purview is primarily responsible for reviewing
12 legislation relating to health and to the Judiciary;
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- 14 (5) The chairperson of the Hawaii State Council on Mental
15 Health;
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- 17 (6) A physician duly licensed under chapter 453, Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes, or advanced practice registered
19 nurse with the authority to prescribe psychotropic
20 medication and duly licensed under chapter 457, Hawaii
21 Revised Statutes, to be invited by the chairperson of
22 the working group; and
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- 24 (7) A psychiatrist duly licensed under chapter 453, Hawaii
25 Revised Statutes, to be invited by the chairperson of
26 the working group; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the
29 Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group may invite other interested
30 parties with relevant experience to join the working group; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin
33 Working Group is requested to submit a preliminary report of its
34 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than
35 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
36 2022, and a final report of its findings and recommendations,
37 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
38 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
39 of 2023; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin
42 Working Group be dissolved on July 1, 2023; and



S.C.R. NO. 157

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Attorney General, and Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

OFFERED BY: 

