

MAR 12 2021

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



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Attorney
4 General, and Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.
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OFFERED BY: 

