

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE PROJECTED REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED FOR THE STATE FROM THE LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IF IT WERE TAXED AT A RATE EQUAL TO THE EXISTING GENERAL EXCISE TAX RATE.

1 WHEREAS, thirty-seven states, including Hawai'i, have
2 enacted medical use of cannabis laws exempting from criminal
3 sanctions the medical use of cannabis; and

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5 WHEREAS, chapter 329D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, was enacted
6 to establish authorized medical cannabis dispensaries to provide
7 patients with medicine that is regulated and tested; and

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9 WHEREAS, some states have legalized or decriminalized
10 marijuana, replacing incarceration or criminal charges for
11 possession of small amounts of marijuana with civil fines,
12 confiscation, drug education, or drug treatment, or have made
13 various marijuana offenses the lowest priority for law
14 enforcement; and

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16 WHEREAS, the legalization of marijuana for personal or
17 recreational use is a natural, logical, and reasonable outgrowth
18 of the current science of marijuana and attitudes toward
19 marijuana; and

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21 WHEREAS, in 2012, voters in Colorado voted to amend the
22 state's constitution to legalize and regulate the production,
23 possession, and distribution of marijuana for persons age
24 twenty-one and older, which generated state tax revenues of
25 approximately \$18,900,000 during the first half of 2014 and is
26 expected to increase as sales of retail marijuana increase; now,
27 therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
31 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
32 Tourism is requested to conduct a study on the projected revenue
33 that would be generated for the State from the legalization of



1 recreational marijuana if it were taxed at a rate equal to the
2 existing general excise tax rate; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
5 include a five-year total projection of the potential revenue to
6 be generated for the State from the legalization of recreational
7 marijuana if it were taxed at a rate equal to the existing
8 general excise tax rate; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
11 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to consult with
12 any public or private entity to complete the study; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
15 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
16 report of its findings and recommendations from the study,
17 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
19 of 2024; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
23 Development, and Tourism.
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OFFERED BY: _____

