

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CURRENT PRICES OF AND ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS AND THE VOLUME OF ILLICIT CANNABIS SALES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Act 241, Session Laws of 2015 (Act 241),
2 established a regulated statewide medical cannabis dispensary
3 system to ensure that patients have safe and legal access to
4 medical cannabis; and
5

6 WHEREAS, since the passage of Act 241, medical cannabis
7 dispensaries licensed under the State's dispensary law have
8 averaged only a thirty-one percent market share of the State's
9 registered medical cannabis patients; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the remaining sixty-nine percent of registered
12 medical cannabis patients, equating to more than twenty thousand
13 patients, purchase medical cannabis from the illicit market or
14 from cannabis grown by themselves or their caregiver; and
15

16 WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2021, 13,851 people registered as new
17 medical marijuana patients, yet only 3,675, or 26.5 percent, of
18 these new registered patients purchase medical cannabis from a
19 licensed dispensary; and
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21 WHEREAS, this problem could be partially attributable to
22 the lack of access to licensed dispensaries, as the medical
23 cannabis dispensary law only allows eight dispensary licenses
24 statewide and each licensee may only have two retail dispensing
25 locations resulting in only sixteen licensed retail dispensing
26 locations across the State; and
27

28 WHEREAS, another contributing factor to the high rate of
29 illicit medical cannabis purchases could be the price of medical
30 cannabis from a licensed dispensary as compared to cannabis from
31 the illicit market; and
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33 WHEREAS, the State has an interest in reducing the amount
34 of illicit cannabis sales to ensure that patients have access to



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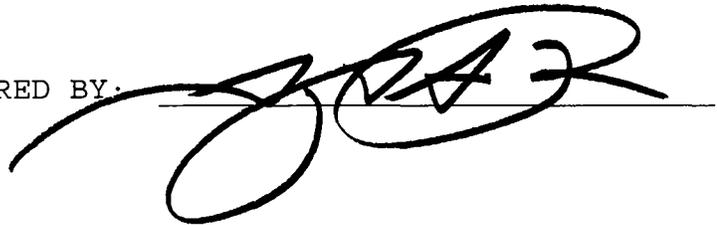
1 regulated, tested, and safe cannabis products; support the
2 growth of the legal cannabis industry in Hawaii; and raise tax
3 revenues gathered from legal activity; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
7 that the Auditor is requested to conduct a study on the
8 relationship between current prices of and access to medical
9 cannabis and the volume of illicit cannabis sales in the State;
10 and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
13 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
14 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
16 2023; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Director of Health.
20
21
22

OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. A. R.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and loops around itself.