
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, SHOULD FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL FOR MEDICAL USE BE OBTAINED, TO ENABLE THE AVAILABILITY OF THERAPEUTIC PSILOCYBIN OR PSILOCYBIN-BASED PRODUCTS THAT ARE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE FOR ADULTS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

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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WHEREAS, Hawaii has a shortage of mental health professionals, and should actively consider novel, innovative, and safe solutions to treat its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group, to be placed within the Department of Health for administrative purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group is requested to examine:

- (1) Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, administrative rules, and procedures regarding the therapeutic use of psilocybin;
- (2) Available medical, psychological, and scientific studies, research, and other information relating to the safety and efficacy of psilocybin in treating mental health conditions; and
- (3) The requirements, specifications, and guidelines for a medical professional to prescribe and provide psilocybin to patients in jurisdictions where psilocybin is approved to treat mental health conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group is requested to develop a long-term strategic plan, should Food and Drug Administration approval for medical use be obtained, to enable the availability of therapeutic psilocybin or psilocybin-based products that are safe, accessible, and affordable for adults twenty-one years of age or older; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of 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 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:

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- 35 (1) A preliminary report of its findings and
- 36 recommendations to the Legislature no later than
- 37 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
- 38 Session of 2023; and
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- 40 (2) A final report of its findings and recommendations,
- 41 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature



1 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Therapeutic Psilocybin
5 Working Group be dissolved on July 1, 2024; and

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

