

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REMOVE CANNABIS FROM THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STATES THAT ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CLEARING CANNABIS OFFENSES FROM DEFENDANTS' RECORDS, AND FACILITATE THE FULL SPECTRUM OF BANKING SERVICES FOR CANNABIS-RELATED BUSINESSES.

1 WHEREAS, thirty-eight states, four territories, and the
2 District of Columbia authorize the use of medical cannabis
3 products, and twenty-four states, three territories, and the
4 District of Columbia have legalized the non-medical use of
5 cannabis among adults; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has enacted:

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9 (1) Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, which authorized
10 the acquisition, possession, and use of medical
11 cannabis;

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13 (2) Act 241, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which authorized
14 the establishment and regulation of medical cannabis
15 dispensaries; and

16
17 (3) Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which
18 decriminalized the possession of a small amount of
19 non-medical cannabis; and

20
21 WHEREAS, data submitted by the Attorney General of the
22 State of Hawaii to the United States Department of Justice
23 indicate that:

24
25 (1) 6,934 adults and 3,732 juveniles were arrested in
26 Hawaii for cannabis possession from 2011 to 2019; and

27
28 (2) Even though Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
29 decriminalized the possession of small amounts of



1 cannabis, five hundred twenty-three adults and
2 eighty-five juveniles were arrested for cannabis
3 possession in 2020; and
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5 WHEREAS, arrests for cannabis possession and convictions
6 for cannabis possession remain on various records and often
7 impact the ability of arrested persons to obtain housing and
8 employment; and
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10 WHEREAS, other state governments are clearing cannabis
11 offenses from defendants' records, and more than 2,500,000
12 records have been expunged or sealed since 2018; and
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14 WHEREAS, even though states have made significant policy
15 changes with respect to cannabis, the federal Controlled
16 Substances Act still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I
17 substance, which means that medical cannabis dispensaries and
18 other cannabis-related businesses continue to face the prospect
19 of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement
20 and prosecution actions; and
21

22 WHEREAS, alcohol and tobacco remain outside the purview of
23 the federal Controlled Substances Act, even though the regular
24 use of those substances often leads to physical injuries,
25 psychological and social harm, the onset of chronic and fatal
26 illnesses, and other negative impacts on individual and public
27 health; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Hawaii's medical cannabis dispensaries and other
30 cannabis-related businesses, including those providing goods,
31 services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related
32 businesses, are hampered by their inability to obtain the full
33 spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and
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35 WHEREAS, in recent years, members of Congress have
36 introduced legislation to facilitate the full spectrum of
37 banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-
38 related businesses; now, therefore,
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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the



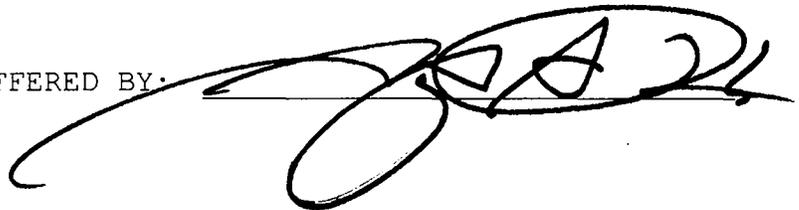
1 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
2 Congress is requested to enact legislation to:

- 3
4 (1) Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances
5 Act;
6
7 (2) Provide support to states that are in the process of
8 clearing cannabis offenses from defendants' records;
9 and
10
11 (3) Facilitate the full spectrum of banking services for
12 cannabis-related businesses; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's
15 congressional delegation are respectfully requested to take the
16 steps necessary to enter the full and complete text of this
17 Concurrent Resolution into the Congressional Record; and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice
21 President of the United States; President Pro Tempore, Majority
22 Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate;
23 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United
24 States House of Representatives; and members of Hawaii's
25 congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. A. 21', written over a horizontal line.