

MAR 07 2025

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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:

8  
9 (1) Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, which authorized  
10 the acquisition, possession, and use of medical  
11 cannabis;

12  
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  
4

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  
9

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  
13

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  
34

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,  
39

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

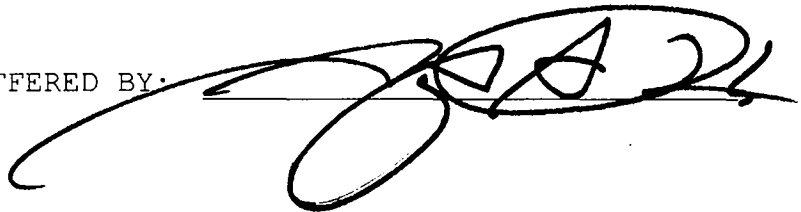
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice  
21 President of the United States; President Pro Tempore, Majority  
22 Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate;  
23 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader 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 read "J. A. 21", is written over a horizontal line.