

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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.

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

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has enacted:

- (1) Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, which authorized the acquisition, possession, and use of medical cannabis;
- (2) Act 241, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which authorized the establishment and regulation of medical cannabis dispensaries; and
- (3) Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which decriminalized the possession of a small amount of non-medical cannabis; and

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

- (1) 6,934 adults and 3,732 juveniles were arrested in Hawaii for cannabis possession from 2011 to 2019; and
- (2) Even though Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, decriminalized the possession of small amounts of cannabis, five hundred twenty-three adults and eighty-five juveniles were arrested for cannabis possession in 2020; and



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2 WHEREAS, arrests for cannabis possession and convictions
3 for cannabis possession remain on various records and often
4 impact the ability of arrested persons to obtain housing and
5 employment; and
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7 WHEREAS, other state governments are clearing cannabis
8 offenses from defendants' records, and more than 2,500,000
9 records have been expunged or sealed since 2018; and
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11 WHEREAS, even though states have made significant policy
12 changes with respect to cannabis, the federal Controlled
13 Substances Act still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I
14 substance, which means that medical cannabis dispensaries and
15 other cannabis-related businesses continue to face the prospect
16 of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement
17 and prosecution actions; and
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19 WHEREAS, alcohol and tobacco remain outside the purview of
20 the federal Controlled Substances Act, even though the regular
21 use of those substances often leads to physical injuries,
22 psychological and social harm, the onset of chronic and fatal
23 illnesses, and other negative impacts on individual and public
24 health; and
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26 WHEREAS, Hawaii's medical cannabis dispensaries and other
27 cannabis-related businesses, including those providing goods,
28 services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related
29 businesses, are hampered by their inability to obtain the full
30 spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and
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32 WHEREAS, in recent years, members of Congress have
33 introduced legislation to facilitate the full spectrum of
34 banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-
35 related businesses; now, therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
39 that the United States Congress is requested to enact
40 legislation to:
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- 1 (1) Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances
2 Act;
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- 4 (2) Provide support to states that are in the process of
5 clearing cannabis offenses from defendants' records;
6 and
- 7
- 8 (3) Facilitate the full spectrum of banking services for
9 cannabis-related businesses; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's
12 congressional delegation are respectfully requested to take the
13 steps necessary to enter the full and complete text of this
14 Resolution into the Congressional Record; and

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

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OFFERED BY: 

