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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE CANNABIS FROM THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STATES THAT ARE CLEARING DEFENDANTS' RECORDS OF CANNABIS OFFENSES, AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO 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

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7           WHEREAS, the State 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

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

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

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24           (1) 6,934 adults and 3,732 juveniles were arrested in  
25 Hawai'i for cannabis possession between 2011 and 2019;  
26 and

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28           (2) Even though Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,  
29 decriminalized the possession of small amounts of  
30 cannabis, five hundred twenty-three adults and



1           eighty-five juveniles were arrested for cannabis  
2           possession in 2020; and

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4           WHEREAS, arrests and convictions for cannabis possession  
5 remain on record and often impact the ability of a person to  
6 obtain housing and employment; and

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8           WHEREAS, other state governments are clearing defendants'  
9 records of cannabis offenses, and more than 2,500,000 records  
10 have been expunged or sealed since 2018; and

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12           WHEREAS, even though states have made significant policy  
13 changes with respect to cannabis, the federal Controlled  
14 Substances Act still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I  
15 substance, which means that medical cannabis dispensaries and  
16 other cannabis-related businesses continue to face the prospect  
17 of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement  
18 and prosecution actions; and

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20           WHEREAS, a recent demand study commissioned by the State  
21 Department of Health found that an adult-use cannabis sector  
22 would exceed \$1 billion in gross sales by its fifth year of  
23 operation; and

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25           WHEREAS, the State's medical cannabis dispensaries and  
26 other cannabis-related businesses, including those providing  
27 goods, services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related  
28 businesses, are hampered by their inability to obtain the full  
29 spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and

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31           WHEREAS, in recent years, members of Congress have  
32 introduced legislation to facilitate access to the full spectrum  
33 of banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-  
34 related businesses; now, therefore,

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36           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
38 that the United States Congress is requested to enact  
39 legislation to:

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41           (1) Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances  
42           Act;



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- (2) Provide support to states that are in the process of clearing defendants' records of cannabis offenses; and
- (3) Facilitate access to the full spectrum of banking services for cannabis-related businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation are respectfully requested to take the steps necessary to enter the full and complete text of this request into the Congressional Record; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States; President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate; Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives; and each member of Hawai'i's congressional delegation.

