
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CANNABIS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that youth cannabis use
2 is a significant and growing public health concern, influenced
3 by legalization, increased product potency, changing social
4 norms, and widespread marketing. Despite some declines, rates
5 of youth cannabis use in Hawaii remain high, and most
6 adolescents entering treatment report cannabis as their primary
7 substance.

8 Cannabis use can harm the developing brain, leading to
9 cognitive impairment, increased risk of psychiatric disorders,
10 cannabis use disorder, poor academic performance, and other
11 long-term health consequences. Early use, especially before age
12 fourteen, greatly increases the risk of addiction. High-potency
13 products also contribute to unpredictable reactions and more
14 emergency room visits.

15 The legislature further finds that effective prevention
16 requires coordinated public education, media outreach, community
17 programs, school involvement, and family-based strategies.



1 Evidence-based treatment, particularly behavioral therapies,
2 supports recovery and helps adolescents build healthy coping
3 skills. Early intervention also improves long-term outcomes.

4 The purpose of this Act is to protect youth from the health
5 risks of cannabis use by appropriating funds for:

6 (1) A public health and informational campaign;

7 (2) Contracts with community-based organizations to
8 prevent substance misuse among youth; and

9 (3) Contracts with community-based organizations to treat
10 substance use disorder among youth.

11 SECTION 2. The department of health shall develop and
12 implement a public health and informational multi-media campaign
13 regarding youth cannabis use and its impact on public health and
14 safety. The campaign may inform the public about any new laws
15 related to cannabis and the continuing risks that cannabis use
16 poses to children, and may include a mix of digital, social
17 media, radio, and television advertising, along with materials
18 for schools and community groups.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the



1 department of health to implement the public health and
2 informational multi-media campaign pursuant to section 2 of this
3 Act.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 health for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
9 alcohol and drug abuse division of the department of health to
10 contract with community-based organizations to provide youth and
11 families with evidenced-based prevention services that prevent
12 substance misuse among youth, especially youth cannabis use.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
18 alcohol and drug abuse division of the department of health to
19 contract with community-based organizations to provide youth and
20 families with evidenced-based treatment services, such as
21 residential, intensive outpatient, and outpatient programs, to



1 treat substance use disorder among youth, especially youth
2 cannabis use.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 6. The department of health shall submit a report
6 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
7 convening of the regular session of 2028, of its findings and
8 recommendations, including:

- 9 (1) The manner in which funds received pursuant to this
10 Act have been expended;
- 11 (2) The particular service providers involved;
- 12 (3) The number of persons who have been served;
- 13 (4) A description of the services provided;
- 14 (5) Measurable outcomes; and
- 15 (6) Any proposed legislation.

16 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DOH; Youth Cannabis Use; Public Health and Informational
Campaign; Community-based Organizations; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Health to develop and implement a public health and informational campaign and contract with community-based organizations to prevent substance misuse and treat substance use disorder among youth. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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