

MAR 12 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS 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 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;

12 (2) Act 241, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which authorized
13 the establishment and regulation of medical cannabis
14 dispensaries; and
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16 (3) Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which
17 decriminalized the possession of small amounts of
18 non-medical cannabis; and
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20 WHEREAS, data submitted by Hawaii's Attorney General to the
21 United States Department of Justice indicate that:
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23 (1) 6,934 adults and 3,732 juveniles were arrested in
24 Hawaii for cannabis possession between 2011 and 2019;
25 and
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27 (2) Even though Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
28 decriminalized the possession of small amounts of
29 cannabis, five hundred twenty-three adults and
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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, alcohol and tobacco remain outside the purview of
21 the federal Controlled Substances Act, even though the regular
22 use of those substances often leads to physical injuries,
23 psychological and social harm, the onset of chronic and fatal
24 illnesses, and other negative impacts on individual and public
25 health; and

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27 WHEREAS, excessive alcohol use in Hawaii accounts for
28 approximately six hundred deaths and \$937,400,000 in health care
29 costs, legal expenses, and lost productivity each year, with
30 illnesses related to tobacco smoking costing the State's medical
31 system approximately \$611,000,000 annually; and

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33 WHEREAS, a recent demand study commissioned by the State
34 Department of Health found that an adult-use cannabis sector
35 would exceed \$1,000,000,000 in gross sales by its fifth year of
36 operation; and

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38 WHEREAS, Hawaii's medical cannabis dispensaries and other
39 cannabis-related businesses, including those providing goods,
40 services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related
41 businesses, are hampered by their inability to obtain the full
42 spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and



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1 WHEREAS, in recent years, members of Congress have
2 introduced legislation to facilitate access to the full spectrum
3 of banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-
4 related businesses; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
9 Congress is requested to enact legislation to:

- 10
11 (1) Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances
12 Act;
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14 (2) Provide support to states that are in the process of
15 clearing defendants' records of cannabis offenses; and
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17 (3) Facilitate access to the full spectrum of banking
18 services for cannabis-related businesses; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's
21 congressional delegation are respectfully requested to take the
22 steps necessary to enter the full and complete text of this
23 request into the Congressional Record; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice
27 President of the United States; President Pro Tempore, Majority
28 Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate;
29 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United
30 States House of Representatives; and each member of Hawaii's
31 congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: 

