
SENATE CONCURRENT 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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1 (2) Even though Act 273, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
2 decriminalized the possession of small amounts of
3 cannabis, five hundred twenty-three adults and
4 eighty-five juveniles were arrested for cannabis
5 possession in 2020; and
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7 WHEREAS, arrests and convictions for cannabis possession
8 remain on record and often impact the ability of a person to
9 obtain housing and employment; and
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11 WHEREAS, other state governments are clearing defendants'
12 records of cannabis offenses, and more than 2,500,000 records
13 have been expunged or sealed since 2018; and
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15 WHEREAS, even though states have made significant policy
16 changes with respect to cannabis, the federal Controlled
17 Substances Act still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I
18 substance, which means that medical cannabis dispensaries and
19 other cannabis-related businesses continue to face the prospect
20 of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement
21 and prosecution actions; and
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23 WHEREAS, a recent demand study commissioned by the State
24 Department of Health found that an adult-use cannabis sector
25 would exceed \$1 billion in gross sales by its fifth year of
26 operation; and
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28 WHEREAS, the State's medical cannabis dispensaries and
29 other cannabis-related businesses, including those providing
30 goods, services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related
31 businesses, are hampered by their inability to obtain the full
32 spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and
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34 WHEREAS, in recent years, members of Congress have
35 introduced legislation to facilitate access to the full spectrum
36 of banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-
37 related businesses; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
42 Congress is requested to enact legislation to:



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- (1) Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act;
- (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 Concurrent 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.

