

MAR 12 2026

SENATE 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
6

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;
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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
20

21 WHEREAS, data submitted by Hawaii's Attorney General to the
22 United States Department of Justice indicate that:
23

24 (1) 6,934 adults and 3,732 juveniles were arrested in
25 Hawaii 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
31 eighty-five juveniles were arrested for cannabis
32 possession in 2020; and
33



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

5 WHEREAS, other state governments are clearing defendants'
6 records of cannabis offenses, and more than 2,500,000 records
7 have been expunged or sealed since 2018; and
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9 WHEREAS, even though states have made significant policy
10 changes with respect to cannabis, the federal Controlled
11 Substances Act still classifies cannabis as a Schedule I
12 substance, which means that medical cannabis dispensaries and
13 other cannabis-related businesses continue to face the prospect
14 of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement
15 and prosecution actions; and
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17 WHEREAS, alcohol and tobacco remain outside the purview of
18 the federal Controlled Substances Act, even though the regular
19 use of those substances often leads to physical injuries,
20 psychological and social harm, the onset of chronic and fatal
21 illnesses, and other negative impacts on individual and public
22 health; and
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24 WHEREAS, excessive alcohol use in Hawaii accounts for
25 approximately six hundred deaths and \$937,400,000 in health care
26 costs, legal expenses, and lost productivity each year, with
27 illnesses related to tobacco smoking costing the State's medical
28 system approximately \$611,000,000 annually; and
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30 WHEREAS, a recent demand study commissioned by the State
31 Department of Health found that an adult-use cannabis sector
32 would exceed \$1,000,000,000 in gross sales by its fifth year of
33 operation; and
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35 WHEREAS, Hawaii's medical cannabis dispensaries and other
36 cannabis-related businesses, including those providing goods,
37 services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related
38 businesses, are hampered by their inability to obtain the full
39 spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and
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41 WHEREAS, in recent years, members of Congress have
introduced legislation to facilitate access to the full spectrum



1 of banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-
2 related businesses; now, therefore,

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

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- 9 (1) Remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances
- 10 Act;
- 11
- 12 (2) Provide support to states that are in the process of
- 13 clearing defendants' records of cannabis offenses; and
- 14
- 15 (3) Facilitate access to the full spectrum of banking
- 16 services for cannabis-related businesses; and
- 17

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

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of
25 the United States; President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, and
26 Minority Leader of the United States Senate; Speaker, Majority
27 Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States House of
28 Representatives; and each member of Hawaii's congressional
29 delegation.

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32 OFFERED BY:

