

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE CURRENT PRICES OF AND ACCESS TO MEDICAL
CANNABIS AND THE VOLUME OF ILLICIT CANNABIS SALES IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Act 241, Session Laws of 2015 (Act 241),
2 established a regulated statewide medical cannabis dispensary
3 system to ensure that patients have safe and legal access to
4 medical cannabis; and
5

6 WHEREAS, since the passage of Act 241, medical cannabis
7 dispensaries licensed under the State's dispensary law have
8 averaged only a thirty-one percent market share of the State's
9 registered medical cannabis patients; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the remaining sixty-nine percent of registered
12 medical cannabis patients, equating to more than twenty thousand
13 patients, purchase medical cannabis from the illicit market or
14 from cannabis grown by themselves or their caregiver; and
15

16 WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2021, 13,851 people registered as new
17 medical marijuana patients, yet only 3,675, or 26.5 percent, of
18 these new registered patients purchase medical cannabis from a
19 licensed dispensary; and
20

21 WHEREAS, this problem could be partially attributable to
22 the lack of access to licensed dispensaries, as the medical
23 cannabis dispensary law only allows eight dispensary licenses
24 statewide and each licensee may only have two retail dispensing
25 locations resulting in only sixteen licensed retail dispensing
26 locations across the State; and
27

28 WHEREAS, another contributing factor to the high rate of
29 illicit medical cannabis purchases could be the price of medical
30 cannabis from a licensed dispensary as compared to cannabis from
31 the illicit market; and



S.C.R. NO. 221

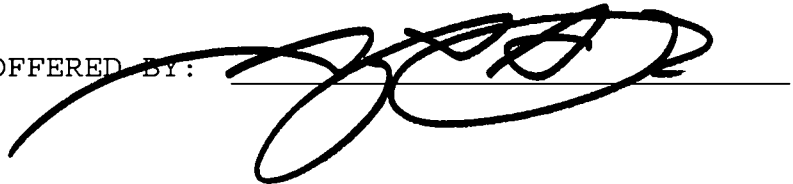
1
2 WHEREAS, the State has an interest in reducing the amount
3 of illicit cannabis sales to ensure that patients have access to
4 regulated, tested, and safe cannabis products; support the
5 growth of the legal cannabis industry in Hawaii; and raise tax
6 revenues gathered from legal activity; now, therefore,
7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
11 requested to conduct a study on the relationship between current
12 prices of and access to medical cannabis and the volume of
13 illicit cannabis sales in the State; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
16 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
17 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
18 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
19 2023; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Director
23 of Health.
24
25
26

OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.