

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 12:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB305 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB305

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Young
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: _____
Submitted on: 2/6/2009

LATE
Testimony

Comments:

I have witnessed the positive effects of marijuana on sick people in pain. It works and I support this program.

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 5:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB305 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB305

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jonathan McRoberts
Organization: Individual
Address: Kilauea, HI
Phone: 808
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/5/2009

LATE
Testimony

Comments:

Hemp is the perfect crop to replace the land left vacant by the reduction in sugarcane and pineapple cultivation. Hawaii needs a new source of income. Any person with reasonable intelligence should understand the advantages of Hemp. It is important to keep our limited agricultural lands from being developed. Hemp is the perfect solution.

The misconception that this is will lead to more marijuana production is wide spread and ridiculous. Hawaii should take the lead in hemp production to take advantage of the wide variety of products that can be derived from this plant. We can show the mainland how wrong they have been in suppressing the cultivation of this extremely useful plant, and preserve our agricultural lands at the same time.

wooley1-Christopher

From: Frank Visconti |
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 7:42 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: canadian industrial hemp strategy

LATE
Testimony

aloha

please find enclosed report from the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance

We expect that Hawaii climate sustainability supports increased crop yields 2 to 1 over current Canadian yields

The canadian's are manufacturing food (seeds, powder, oil)

from only 5% of the plant

the rest can also be manufactured (20,000 uses)

This alliance currently produced over \$20 million in revenues in 2008

they are one of several hemp grower's alliances in Canada

the benefits are unlimited, industrial hemp can save Hawaii's economy.

the rest of the us states are all at the starting line and will be out of the gate ahead of the pack

we must consider all options in this bleak economic forecast and dire

future prediction's

we are available to give a detailed presentation if needed at a future date, we can bring stats from our canadian hemp growers partners

regarding economic feasibility

please consider Industrial hemp production for 2009 for Hawaiian sustainability and independence from food, gas, clothing, paper , textile suppliers on the mainland!

regard's

Frank Visconti

wooley1-Christopher

From: Tom Murphy [
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 8:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony of Vote Hemp for HB 305

LATE
Testimony

Hemp in Hawaii
Testimony of Tom Murphy
Vote Hemp National Outreach Coordinator
in support of HB 305

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Agriculture Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
House of Representatives

Vote Hemp recommends that the Committee vote to pass HB 305, to provide the authority, procedures, and licensing, related to the production of industrial hemp in the State.

- * Industrial hemp is an agricultural crop.
- * Industrial hemp is varieties of *Cannabis* that are low in THC and high in CBD.
- * Oilseed and fiber varieties of *Cannabis* are also known as industrial hemp.
- * You can not get drugs from oilseed or fiber varieties of *Cannabis*.
- * Oilseed, fiber, and drug varieties of *Cannabis* are grown at different densities.
- * Drug varieties of *Cannabis* can not be grown with oilseed or fiber varieties without being easily spotted.

So far in this legislative season four states - Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Mexico and North Dakota - have introduced hemp legislation. Maine is expected to introduce legislation within the next month. At least two more states are expected to introduce legislation this year. You can keep track of all state hemp legislation on Vote Hemp's State Hemp Legislation Page:

<http://www.votehemp.com/state.html>

A low-input crop requiring little or no herbicides or pesticides, industrial hemp has many environmental and economic benefits. Hemp is an earth-friendly source of paper, fiberboard, textiles, auto parts, insulation, petroleum-free plastics and fuel. Hemp fields clean the air and the soil, and hemp products can be recycled and composted. Hemp seed (along with the oil pressed from the seed) is a healthy ingredient for food and body care products, providing a rich source of protein, vitamin E, dietary fiber, and omega-3 essential fatty acids (EFAs).

In Canada there is no THC limit for research purposes. For regular commercial production the THC limit is 0.3%. The United Nations defines industrial hemp as having a THC level below 1%. It is hoped that the Committee will consider a higher THC limit for research purposes so that research of higher THC varieties, most commonly older eastern European varieties, in development of localized varieties may be carried out. Many state studies on hemp have shown the economic benefit of hemp research and development. Health Canada also puts out a list of approved varieties each year. There is a link to the List of Approved Cultivars for the 2007 Growing Season at the end of this document.

North Dakota was one of the first states to pass industrial hemp legislation and has done so five times. North Dakota's first hemp law, passed in 1997, directed that the State University Agriculture Experiment Station to do a study of industrial hemp production. In 1999 a pair of bills were passed, one a resolution urging Congress to acknowledge the difference between the agricultural crop known as industrial hemp and its drug-type relative,

the second a bill to authorize the production of industrial hemp and remove it from the noxious weed list. In 2001 another resolution was passed similar to the 1999 resolution and in 2005 a bill was passed allowing for feral hemp seed collection and breeding at NDSU.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is now issuing licenses to farmers to grow hemp under existing state law and NDDA rules. I presented testimony in favor of these rules at a hearing in Bismarck in June 2006.

We hope that 2009 will be the year that North Dakota returns to growing industrial hemp on a research and/or commercial scale. As the first state to produce industrial hemp in 50 years, North Dakota will have an opportunity to build an infrastructure of industrial hemp processing plants and value-added applications while the industry is still its infancy. North Dakota is well placed to become a major producer of industrial hemp and industrial hemp products for North America and the world. Hawaii could also be well positioned in industrial hemp farming, processing, and a leader in research & development as well.

Retail sales of hemp food and body care products in the United States have continued to set record sales over the past twelve months, according to new data released by the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) in October 2008. The strong sales of popular hemp items like non-dairy milk, shelled hemp seed, soaps and lotions have occurred against the backdrop of state-licensed hemp farmers in North Dakota fighting a high stakes legal battle against DEA to grow hemp for U.S. manufacturers. The new sales data validates U.S. farmers' position that they are being left out of the lucrative hemp market that Canadian farmers have cashed in on for eleven years.

The sales data, collected by the market research firm SPINS, was obtained from natural food retailers only, excluding Whole Foods Market and mass-market food and pharmacy stores, and thus under-represents actual sales by a factor of two to three. The new report shows that hemp grocery sales grew in the sampled stores by 65% over the previous year (from August 2007 to August 2008), or by \$2.4 million, to a total of \$6.12 million. Based on the representative growth of this sample, the HIA Food and Oil Committee now estimates that the total retail value of hemp foods sold over the past 12 months in North America grew from \$20 million last year to approximately \$33 million this year. In addition, the SPINS data show that sales of hemp body care products grew 10% over the past 12 months in the sampled stores to \$12.24 million. Due to the large hemp body care line sold by The Body Shop, as well as the fact that many unreported leading mass-market brands of sun tan lotion and sunscreen products include hemp oil, the HIA estimates the total retail value of North American hemp body care sales to be at least \$80 million. The HIA is states that the total North American hemp food and body care market over the last 12 months accounted for at least \$100 million in retail sales. Over the last three years, hemp food sales have averaged 47% annual growth, making hemp one of the fastest-growing natural food categories.

The appetite for industrial hemp is growing in all sectors of the industry. In the automotive industry, industrial hemp is used in the natural fiber composites that have rapidly replaced fiberglass as the material of choice for vehicle interiors. FlexForm, an Indiana manufacturer whose hemp-content materials are found in an estimated 2.5 million vehicles in North America today, uses approximately 250,000 pounds of hemp fiber per year. The company says industrial hemp could easily take a greater share of the 4 million pounds of natural fiber it uses yearly, as "hemp fiber possesses physical properties beneficial to our natural fiber based composites." In addition, FlexForm says it would "gladly expand our domestic purchases."

While industrial hemp's beneficial properties are already being exploited by U.S. companies manufacturing food, body care, automotive, paper, and textile products, there are several uses of industrial hemp that will not be realized until domestic production takes root. For instance, in the UK and EU, but not in the U.S., the woody core of the industrial hemp plant is being used as a low-cost, highly effective building material (concrete, fiberboard) and animal bedding. High-cellulose industrial hemp also has great potential as a plant-based source of plastic and ethanol.

These value-added applications will make industrial hemp a great addition to Hawaii's rural economy.

There is an international exemption for industrial hemp:

The United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 states in Article 28:

"2. This Convention shall not apply to the cultivation of the cannabis plant exclusively for industrial purposes (fibre and seed) or horticultural purposes."

The United States is a party to the Single Convention.

There are exemptions for hemp products in the U.S as well:

In the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC Section 802 - Definition (16) states:

"The term "marihuana" means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin. Such term does not include the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination."

In writing the Controlled Substances Act, and its predecessor the Marihuana Tax Act, it was the clear intent of Congress to exempt the products stated. It was also the intention of Congress that hemp would continue to be grown in the U.S.

Hemp was grown in the United States until 1957, with the last crop being grown in Wisconsin for the Matt Rens Hemp Company as documented in Dennis Rens' self published book "America's Hemp King."

In December 1999 the first hemp seeds were planted in the Hawaii Industrial Hemp Project managed by Dr. Dave West of GamETec. Hemp was grown on a research basis in this project until 2003.

In December of 2000 the National Conference of State Legislatures passed a resolution:

"NCSL strongly urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy to collaboratively develop and adopt an official definition of industrial hemp, as per those nations currently producing hemp. NCSL is also strongly urging Congress to amend U.S. Code sections 21 U.S.C. Sec. 812 (10) and 21 U.S.C. Sec. 841 to distinguish between industrial hemp and marijuana varieties of cannabis as they relate to production, possession, delivery and intended use."

"NCSL requests the USDA and the DEA to review the procedures under which their Canadian counterparts are authorized to sanction the commercial development of industrial hemp. NCSL is also strongly urging Congress statutorily to direct the DEA to revise its policies to be less restrictive and to allow states to establish state regulatory programs, thus fostering the development of domestic hemp production by American farmers and manufacturers."

In September 2003 the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) adopted in support of industrial hemp farming in the U.S. The resolution stated:

"NASDA supports revisions to the federal rules and regulations, authorizing commercial production of industrial hemp."

"NASDA urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to collaboratively develop and adopt an official definition of industrial hemp that comports with definitions currently used by countries producing hemp. NASDA also urges Congress to statutorily distinguish between industrial hemp and marijuana and to direct the DEA to revise its policies to allow USDA to establish a regulatory program that allows the development of domestic industrial hemp production by American farmers and manufacturers."

Hawaii farmers and business people could profit from the growth of a hemp industry in Hawaii, especially if local processing and markets were to be developed to cut down on transportation costs from the mainland. Many businesses in The U.S. now make a myriad of products from hemp and if the raw materials were grown in Hawaii we would all benefit and keep the money here in the U.S.

Farms, both large and small, would benefit from this profitable rotation crop that has deep roots which bring up additional nutrients, leaves the soil in good tilth, and weed free. Hemp growth requires very little pesticides and herbicides, of course none if organically grown. Contrary to popular belief hemp does require good soil and a reasonable amount of water to grow, it is not a miracle crop. Hemp may not save the planet, but it may help keep the agricultural way of life possible in Hawaii and slow down the sprawl resulting from the loss of profitable farms.

If Hawaii had a hemp research center, conferences and symposiums would bring in respected scientists, researchers, farmers, and business people from all over the world to learn and share information, which would be a great economic benefit to the state. Hemp seed and oil, with its excellent Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acid profile, could help make specialty food and cosmetic business thrive. The paper industry would have additional feedstock to add to recycled paper to make it stronger, processed fiber could be sent to other states for production of automobile parts, and many other sectors of our economy could also benefit from the reintroduction of this versatile crop.

Hawaii should be a leader in the research and development of industrial hemp. I hope that this legislation is passed for the good of all people in the state of Hawaii and to help bring back hemp farming to the U.S.

Vote Hemp recommends that the Committee vote to pass HB 305.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present my testimony to the Committee. If I can provide and other information to help in the passage of this bill please feel free to contact me and I will do what I can to help.

Sincerely,

Tom Murphy
National Outreach Coordinator
Vote Hemp
<http://www.votehemp.com/>
tom@votehemp.com
207-542-4998 cellular
207-236-3137 office

Additional resources:

Vote Hemp <http://www.votehemp.com>

Download Center http://www.votehemp.com/download_center.html

State Hemp Legislation <http://www.votehemp.com/state.html>

Hawaii State Page <http://www.votehemp.com/state/hawaii.html>

NASDA Resolution http://www.votehemp.com/nasda_policy.html

Canadian Federal Regulation & Legislation Information <http://www.votehemp.com/canada.html>

Hemp Industries Association

<http://thehia.org/>

TestPledge

<http://www.testpledge.com/>

North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA)

<http://agdepartment.com/Programs/Plant/HempFarming.htm>

Canadian Industrial Hemp regulations

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-38.8/SOR-98-156/index.html>

Alberta Agriculture and Food - Industrial Hemp Production Rebounding

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/econ9631](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/econ9631)

Health Canada

List of Approved Cultivars for the 2007 Growing Season

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/pubs/precurs/list-cultivars-liste/index-eng.php>

Hemp as an Agricultural Commodity

By Jean M. Rawson

Specialist in Agricultural Policy

Resources, Science, and Industry Division

March 23, 2007

Congressional Research Service - CRS Report for Congress

Order Code RL32725

<http://openocrs.cdt.org/document/RL32725>

Illegally Green: Environmental Costs of Hemp Prohibition

By Skaidra Smith-Heisters

Reason Foundation Policy Study 367

March 2008, 50 pages

<http://www.reason.org/ps367.pdf> (PDF file 836k)

Hemp: A New Crop with New Uses for North America

By Ernest Small and David Marcus

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/ncnu02/v5-284.html> HTML

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/ncnu02/pdf/small.pdf> PDF file 14.1MB