

LATE

Feb 25, 2014
SB2175 Legalizing the growing of Industrial Hemp
Hearing Feb 25, 2014 10:15 AM
TO: Committee on Agriculture & PSM

I, Amber Long support SB2175 to legalize the growing of industrial hemp in Hawaii.

Being human means being reliant on 3 main things, food, clothing, and shelter. Fortunately we have a plant that can provide all these things and more. In a state that has 80% of its resources shipped in, I believe Hemp can be one of our major answers in being a sustainable Hawaii.

It only seems fair to understand this immense little plant for what it's really worth instead of by its misjudged history. That history goes back thousands of years and even held an elevated status with Emperors and priest like those in Japan. What many might not know is that our founding fathers, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams all grew hemp and believed it should be grown everywhere in the United States. They even drafted the Declaration of Independence on hemp paper and stated many times how hemp is a crucial crop in keeping our country strong.

Let's explore how Hemp can preserve our beautiful Hawaii for the present and future generations. Today we see an increasing number of local farmers. Hemp can support the local food industry by providing better soil since it can remove toxins like those used in the sugar cane and pineapple fields. It is also used as a rotational crop to replenish nutrients, nitrogen's, and oxygen. It can be grown organically with no herbicides or pesticides. With our water table depletion being a problem, hemp uses 1/3 the amount that cotton requires. Hemp seed is also nutritious and contains more essential fatty acids than most other sources.

Trash has become an ever-growing problem for Hawaii and the landfills have been maxed out. Most petrochemical products can be replaced with hemp. If we start to use biodegradable products (i.e. Plastic bags, packaging, etc) we would enormously decrease our trash issues and lessen our horrific contribution to our backyard dumping grounds we call the Pacific Ocean.

As a nation our focus has been on fuel and doubly so for Hawaii. We can lessen our dependency on petroleum by producing our own biofuel. The city, state, and military are already using biodiesel in Hawaii from a locally run company. In reality, the diesel engine was originally invented to run on agriculture waste. Henry Ford even built a car body with cellulose plastic, one of those being hemp fiber. It was ten times stronger than steel and much cheaper to make.

With cutting edge technologies in building materials, hemp has been revamped and made into a superb product called hempcrete. It is carbon negative, fire resistant, waterproof, self-insulating, & bacteria proof. Fiberboard made with hemp is twice as strong as wood based fiberboard.

Historically hemp is well known for its use in textiles and paper. Hemp is stronger, softer, more absorbent and more insulated than cotton fiber. 1 acre of hemp fiber equals 2 acres of cotton. Cotton uses large amounts of pesticides and high volumes of water while hemp does not. In 1853, the first Levi jeans were made with hemp cloth. Even the word canvas comes from the word cannabis (Latin). One acre of hemp can produce as much paper as 4 to 10 acres of trees over a 20-year cycle, but hemp stalks only take four months to mature, whereas trees take 20 to 80 years. This information was known in 1916, according to a USDA report. Hemp paper can also be recycled more often.

Lastly, I would like to address the issue of hemp vs marijuana. The difference in appearance and growing methods is comparable to the difference between growing corn and roses. Industrial hemp is grown closely together (rows are as close as 4 inches apart), it is grown in large multi-acre plots, it grows thin and tall, as tall as 20 feet high in many cases, has few branches or leaves below the tops, and is grown 108-120 days. Contrast that with medicinal cannabis: grown 6 feet apart, it is a shorter fatter bush with many branches, smaller plots with fewer plants, and is grown for 60-90 days. When ready to harvest, the corn vs. rose's analogy is even more striking when you compare pictures of the two very different plants. THC content in feral hemp is around 0-2 percent. Industrial hemp in Canada is 0.3 percent or less, and better commercial varieties of medicinal cannabis are up to 25 percent. Don't buy the argument that 1 percent THC in hemp is enough to get high, because industrial hemp also has high CBD (cannabidiol, a cannabinoid in hemp) that is essentially a THC antagonist. More CBD means the THC is less effective, and hemp is highest in CBD and medicinal is lowest. So even if there is 1 percent THC in hemp, the CBD makes it useless to smoke. And remember, industrial hemp pollens will make the sinsemilla (seedless, highest potency, requires an absence of cannabis pollen) downwind for many miles less potent. If every other police force in the industrialized world can tell the difference, I'm sure that when the time is appropriate DEA or USDA or Hawaii AG or someone to whom it is important will provide the necessary information to show the difference between the two (naihc.org).

Being born and raised in Hawaii I feel it is my duty, like the rest of the citizens, to keep the land and water preserved. People are starting to wake up to the inconsistency with in our system and I see the current generation wanting to change that. We are now a more educated and more informed society. We yearn for the truth and have found it. I believe the government needs to acknowledge these truths and see how this colossal plant could help us as a state, country, and world!

Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize we cannot eat money ~Cree proverb

Reference

- A. www.votehemp.com
- B. www.hemphistoryweek.com
- C. www.hempplastic.com
- D. www.hempcar.org
- E. www.bringingithomemovie.com
- F. www.voteindustrialhemp.com
- G. www.naihc.org

Amber Long

808 265 4632

LATE

SB2175

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for CPN/JDL on Feb 25, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sarah smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Industrial hemp will be a very valuable crop in Hawaii. Sates, near and far, are going forward with industrial hemp, and we should too. For many years the US has gotten imports from Canada and China. We can get on the bandwagon and benefit from growing our own and creating a fresh new industry for Hawaii.

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SB 2175
SUPPORT

Thank U for the opportunity to testify... my name is Lisa Mitchell & I support SB2175....with comments & amendments.

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Nakamura-Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2175

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for CPN/JDL on Feb 25, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
katherine muzik	kulu wai	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanohowailuku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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