

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2016
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2555 HD1
RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2555 HD1 that authorizes industrial hemp to be grown as part of research conducted under an agricultural pilot program or other agricultural research to study the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp under specific agreement with and under the authority of the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding. There is an appropriation to the Department to hire one person to administer this new program for growing industrial hemp for research purposes. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that it does not conflict with the priorities established in the Executive Budget, and offers comments.

This measure allows institutions of higher education to grow industrial hemp (page 4, lines 15-16) and develop seed cultivars intended for sale or research (page 4, lines 6-9). The Department would appreciate guidance as to the specified or anticipated relationship between the institutions of higher learning, registered growers, and the Department with respect to the growing of industrial hemp for research purposes (page 4, line 14 to page 5, line 5).

This measure allows registered growers to sell industrial hemp under specified conditions to agribusinesses and other manufacturers for the purpose of creating hemp products (page 7, line 12 to page 8, line 19). The Department would appreciate guidance with respect to research as it applies to marketing of industrial hemp.

The Department of Agriculture supports all components of Hawaii's agriculture production industry. Where there has been an "ask" from a segment of Hawaii's agricultural community to move forward with industrial hemp as a potential crop, the



Department will move forward in support of that effort and the intent of this bill. Because industrial hemp is still illegal by Federal law, there will be limitations on how much and the type of work that the Department can support in working with industrial hemp.

It is important for persons or business entities seeking to grow industrial hemp for research, sale, and other purposes under this bill to note that they will be subject to stringent registration requirements, record keeping, and compliance with all other State laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Wednesday, February 24, 2016; 3:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2555
RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2555, HD1, which authorizes the Board of Agriculture to regulate the growing of industrial hemp for research purposes, requires the regulation of growers selling industrial hemp, and makes an appropriation.

Since the decline of pineapple production and the impending closure of the last sugar plantation in Hawaii, acres of good agricultural land have remained fallow or have undergone or will undergo extensive development. While other crops have been introduced to replace sugar and pineapple and provide jobs for hundreds of people, some of them have faced stiff opposition from environmentalists and others who oppose genetically modified organisms (GMO) and large-scale pesticide use. The irony is that those who oppose GMO's also oppose expanded development and want to "keep the country country."

Hawaii's economy needs diversification. Tourism may be our number one industry but cannot be the state's sole economic driver. Indeed, tourism needs agriculture for its survival as much as it needs beaches and good weather. Flying over Maui and seeing acres of green, growing sugar cane is a delight for both visitors and residents, but that will end before too long. The State recognized the importance of agricultural lands on the North Shore of Oahu and wisely appropriated funding to obtain lands owned by the Galbraith Estate, but more must be done to ensure that agriculture has a future in Hawaii.

H.B. 2555, HD1 offers an opportunity for another crop to make use of vacant agricultural lands, provide jobs, stave off development, and preserve open spaces. That crop is industrial hemp, which is not the same as marijuana used for medicinal and recreational drug purposes. While from the same family as marijuana, industrial hemp is low in THC, scientifically different from marijuana, and cultivated differently. Industrial hemp is grown for its seed and fiber content and is used to produce food, oil, furniture, and fabric.

We believe this is a crop is worth considering for its economic potential. The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2555, HD1. Thank you for considering our testimony.



Feb. 24, 2016

Aloha Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members --

Maui Hemp Institute for Research and Innovation (MHI) is in STRONG support of HB2555 HD1.

MHI is a Hawaii nonprofit whose members have worked with local and national legislators, and the general public over the past three years to educate our business and private sector communities on the many benefits of industrial hemp.

Twenty-seven US States have already passed industrial hemp legislation.

Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year-round — a fact established by the pilot program research done by UH during the past two years. Expanding this program to all Hawai'i farmers and agricultural companies will maintain our lead over other states hoping to develop a stake in this multi-million dollar industry. Hawaii farmers and large agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop, now!

Harvested hemp is made into hundreds of products around the world — products that entrepreneurs in the Hawaii market can develop into products that will diversify and grow our local economy.

Already, citizens on Maui are building a second house using hemp building materials! This house is naturally resistant to mold, mildew and termites and is fire retardant! Maui Brewing Company will be brewing hemp beer for our third annual 2016 Hemp History Week in June. Styrophobia, an Oahu-based company, has made their recyclable containers from pulverized hemp for years. These are just three examples of profitable products and businesses that use industrial/agricultural hemp — unfortunately, raw materials for these products currently must be imported.

Expanding industrial hemp farming to all Hawaii will naturally develop plant strains and seed products that Hawai'i manufacturers can buy locally – boosting our economy immediately. Farming of hemp as a rotational crop will clean, condition and fertilize our soil for food crops that reduce our dependence on imported produce.

Your vote to support HB2555 HD1 will allow farmers, current businesses and budding entrepreneurs alike grow and explore markets for products that can only be made here in Hawaii.

We appreciate your support of this very important bill.

Mahalo,

Denise Key, MHI Educational Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 7:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Finance Committee- Mike Moran, President of the KCA for the Association in strong support at your committee on 2/25 at 300 PM for HB 2555 for Industrial Hemp. Our Community needs much new AG with the demise of sugar at end of this year, and this could be a big piece for our future. Mahalo, Mike Moran- Kihei, Maui

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports.

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Testimony of Eric Steenstra, president of Vote Hemp
Date: February 24, 2016

Testifying in support of HB 2555

I want to thank chairman Luke and the committee for allowing me to testify today. I am in support of HB 2555 which would allow industrial hemp research and pilot programs as authorized in the Farm Bill of 2014.

My name is Eric Steenstra and I am, the president of Vote Hemp, a non-profit advocacy group formed in 2000 by members of the hemp industry. Our mission is to advocate for legislation and policies at the state and federal level that allow American farmers to once again grow industrial hemp commercially.

Vote Hemp has a full time presence in Washington and works with members of Congress and state legislators to educate and advocate for industrial hemp legislation. Vote Hemp has assisted dozens of states to pass pro-hemp legislation over the past 16 years. Currently 27 states including Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee allow hemp pilot programs or farming under state law.

You may hear from others about the amazing array of products that can be made from industrial hemp or details about its long history in American agriculture dating back to the founding fathers. What I would like to talk about today is the economic benefits and potential of hemp to create jobs in farming and manufacturing.

American companies have been importing hemp raw materials and finished products already for decades. Thousands of products made from hemp can be found at stores such as Costco, Target, CVS and Whole Foods. The market has been growing each year. The Hemp Industries Association estimates that retail sales of hemp products reached \$620 million in 2014 and retail sales tracking data from SPINS indicates that the sales of hemp food and body care products grew by 21.2% to \$200 million in 2014.

Hemp commerce is already having a positive economic benefit in Hawaii. Island Hemp Wear on Kauai makes hemp Hawaiian shirts. Hemp House Paia sells a variety of hemp products. They both have to import their hemp from other countries like China and Canada. Wouldn't it make sense to allow them to source their hemp from a Hawaii farmer? HB 2555 would allow research and pilot programs so that a hemp industry could ultimately be developed on the islands.

The current policy creates barriers to job creation and penalizes Hawaiian farmers whose forefathers grew hemp for centuries. I urge you to support HB 2555 to reduce imports and create American jobs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: westmango7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Nelson	Nellie's Rentals	Support	No

Comments: Keep Maui green and the economy growing.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This crop can become the agricultural backbone of Hawaii if given the chance. Please give it you most serious consideration. Mahalo.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:11 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fitzformaui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a commonsense bill! States like Kentucky and Colorado are already benefiting by tapping into the economic viability of industrial hemp that countries around the world have been enjoying. Here on Maui the cultivation of hemp has the potential to create thousands of jobs by utilizing it for thousands of products, reduce pesticide and water use, and help us become more sustainable. As HC&S goes out of business it is important to have all tools necessary to fill the economic gap. Mahalo, Fitz

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: chris@mentzel.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tree@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Luksic	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, We need to take advantage of the opportunity for transition by realizing the economic benefits of industrial hemp. It should be legal for all to grow and use. This is a grate textile. Mahalo, Stephen Luksic Kula

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ktk@biodiesel.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly King	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this bill as the potential of industrial hemp to be an economic driver for Hawaii is huge! In the fall of 2014, I helped organize a hemp workshop for Maui that had great attendance and showed the interest by state and county officials as well as local farmers, construction worker and food producers. Let's join the other states who have not waited for the federal government to legalize this important crop!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: karen@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: The cultivation of Hemp on Hawaii will bring us a long way on the path to sustainability. Hemp makes economic sense, and it's many by-products for industrial, health, and food is a no-brainer.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kstover@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: The cultivation of Hemp on Hawaii will bring us a long way on the path to sustainability. Hemp makes economic sense, and it's many by-products for industrial, health, and food is a no-brainer.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 2:30 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mpshaw10@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 2:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stacy@stacyvosberg.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stacy vosberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Respected Senators, I strongly support HB2555 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gyliansolay@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gylian Solay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:16 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: clareloprinzi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
clare loprinzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a no brainer, something that can help our islands, replace chemical farming and heal a pau. mahalos for this bill

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jgelert@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Gelert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555. Industrial hemp has hundreds of uses from omega-3 rich oil for foods, or oil for fuel, plastics, etc, and fibers for clothing, paper, etc, and other parts for building materials, etc. 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:30 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hawaiiqh@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:07 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wendygibson9@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hemp is one of the most useful plants on the planet. Please allow it to grow in Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lou@akaku.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Dilberto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support this bill as a way towards sustainability for Maui and Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 3:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: e.ormonde@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emanuel Ormonde	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: boyne@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours Jonathan Boyne

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: linda@lindasola.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Sola	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a small farmer and I strongly support HB2555 HD1. There are 27 US states that have already passed industrial hemp legislation. It's time for us to expand beyond UH's pilot program to all Hawaii's farmers. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round and be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry, Growing industrial hemp will give Hawaii farmers the opportunity to develop seed and strains, boost our economy, clean our soil, and reduce our dependency on imports. Hawaii's farmers need to be able to grow this crop now! Respectfully yours,
Linda Sola

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: naia96708@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine NEWLIGHT	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 2555 HD1! 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past two years with its pilot program. It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and ag companies, alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry, Hawaii farmers and large agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop, now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seeds and strains that will boost our economy, while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours Nadine NEWLIGHT

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hollifred@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
holly irwin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ricbillman@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Billman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1. 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year-round, proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program. It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry, Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours, Richard Billman

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tacraig@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours, Thomas Craig

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: tacraig@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Mauimagic5711@Hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 7:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: elielstarbright@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours Timothy Starbright

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 7:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mryan603@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 6:55 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mrgach@att.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Reed Gach	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to urge you to support the Industrial Hemp Bill HB2555. Industrial Hemp, which is completely different properties and chemistry than marijuana, has been used successfully used for food, pest and mold resistant building supplies, fuel, paper and clothing. The Declaration of Independence was drafted on hemp paper. Drought and pest resistant hemp revitalizes and detoxes soil. SUSTAINABILITY IN HAWAII: Hemp produces 4 times the raw material than trees for paper making. Hemp can be planted between 1-3 times a season, depending on location and can be recycled up to 10 times, compared to 3 or 4 for wood pulp paper. The same fibre products that the hemp harvest produces also provides raw-materials for a host of other sustainable products. I believe Industrial Hemp can be one of our major answers to self-sustainability. It can now make Hawaii more independent from imports and vital economically. In Hawaii, 80% of our resources are shipped in. Industrial Hemp is a healthy alternative to reduce or eliminate the need for Pesticides on our islands and to save water. This hardy, healthy crop benefits the well being of our Ohana and Aina. Please support industrial hemp bill HB2555. Michael Gach, Ph.D. P.O. Box 1808 Kihei, HI 96753

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support this Bill. We have many HC&S employees to keep working plus thousands of acres that a portion could be used to cultivate non GE Hemp. The economic and environmental rewards are abundant. Let's get Hawaii growing!
Mahalo,

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Jessicamitchell51@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: slwsurfing@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon willeford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: So many possibilities!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mauifaith@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Ewbank	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for seeing this measure through. This is a great time in Hawaii history and I'm proud to see those support Industrial Hemp in Hawaii. I see Industrial Hemp as a viable medium to truly be a part of an industry with great success and reward. As always in my testimonies regarding Industrial Hemp, please ensure that you include the Aha Moku in decisions on where best this plant can be grown. Mahalo, Faith Chase

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: carolinesdelano@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Delano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: irish7413@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours, Amber Long

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Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ollo1188@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha,

I strongly support HB2555. Twenty seven US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with its pilot program. It is also well known that the prohibition of industrial hemp was based on deceitful, monopolistically motivated propaganda, which serves neither the land or the people.

It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now!

Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports.

Respectfully yours,

Keith Ranney
280 Kamaole Road
Kula, HI 96790

From: Charlotte Farmer
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 3:55 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing on HB2555

LATE

We were sent the following testimony for inclusion in tomorrow's FIN hearing on HB2555. Thank you for your assistance with this. Aloha, Charlotte

Name and organization: Harry Ako, PhD (retired from the University of Hawaii)

To: House Finance Committee

Date and time: Thursday Feb. 25, 3:00.

Measure: HB2555

I wish to present oral testimony

Hard to obtain permits have been obtained with the help of the Hawaii state and federal legislators. Research has been done and subtropical cultivars of fiber and seed hemp have been found. Using meteorological and photoperiod processes unique to Hawaii, we find that we may be able to produce hemp at 2-3 times the rate as can be done on the mainland. In my opinion it is now time to take advantage of this research and to do further research in the private sector to turn these green plants into green money in the pockets of farmers. Generation of economic activity is very challenging. Farmers will be the ultimate experts but preliminary experiments suggest that we can produce a home grown, termite proof building material from hemp, forage for cattle from extremely fast growing hemp, and cookies and candy bars from hemp seeds.

*Charlotte Farmer
Office Manager
Representative Cynthia Thielen
Assistant Minority Floor Leader
50th District (Kailua, Kaneohe Bay)*

*Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St., Room 443
Phone: (808) 586-6480
Fax: (808) 586-6481*

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 7:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: info@courtneybruch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE



P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099

February 24, 2016

Support for HB 2555

HFUU Board of Directors

Vincent Mina
President
HFUU

Aloha Chair Luke and Honorable Committee Members,

Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of HB 2555

Ray Maki
Vice-President
HFUU

The Acronym we use for HEMP is Hawaii Environmental Money Producer. We are also in strong support of the requested appropriation for this measure.

Anny Bruch
Secretary
HFUU

Based on the results of the economic boost this crop has represented for other countries that allow its cultivation and the fact that the United States is the largest consumer of HEMP products, we assert that clearing any obstacles impeding its production here in Hawaii will best serve to sustain our agricultural movement forward and will support locally the benefits of growing food, medicine, fiber, and fuel products we now import. The entire country of Canada has about 50,000 acres of hemp, and it is a \$3 billion industry there. Hawaii could also have 50,000 acres of hemp growing in the future. That would be economic stimulus for our agricultural sector here, and keep Hawaii green.

Karen Reid
Treasurer
HFUU

The cultivation of industrial hemp in different areas (Which is the intent of this bill) of the state will also give us a clear understanding on how it grows in different climatic conditions and soil strata. Promoting HEMP production with a sustainable approach to utilizing all of its potential can be grown in rotation and in conjunction with cover crops which fixes and makes available nitrogen in the soil for subsequent crops. These and other soil building practices will also provide much needed root and beneficial fungal bio-mass for many of our depleted, eroded and over produced agricultural soils. This then will address the necessary task of rebuilding the vitality of our soils with a movement forward of having a resilient agricultural system in providing consistent agricultural production into the future.

Nate Hayward
Kohala

It has been shown that Hawaii is a prime place to grow seed for agricultural production, by us having a focus on a renewable path of cover crop seeds and HEMP seeds whose growing practices recycle nutrients back into our agricultural and food system, will add value to the whole system of agriculture we envision and represent for a sustainable agricultural presence moving forward.

Steve Sakala
Kona

HEMP is an important piece of developing this sustainable agricultural picture for now and for many generations. We appreciate your consideration and support in taking this important step forward for Hawaii's agricultural future.

Greg Smith
Ka'u

Phyllis Robinson
Haleakala

Mahalo,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Alika Atay
Mauna Kahalawai

Vincent Mina, President

Mikala Minn
Hana

Pamela Boyer
Oahu

**HFUU Board of
Directors**

The Hawai'i Farmers Union United and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawai'i law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers, ranchers and fishers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawai'i through cooperation, education

Vincent Mina
President

Ray Maki
Vice-President

Anabella Bruch
Secretary

Karen Reid
Treasurer

Pamela Boyar
Oahu

Alika Atay
Mauna Kahalawai

Mikala Minn
Hana

Phyllis Robinson
Haleakala

Nate Hayward
Kohala

Greg Smith
Ka'u

Kyle Studer
East Hawai'i

Steve Sakala
Kona

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke, and honorable members of the committee, Farmers statewide need the opportunity this bill provides. Thank you fro considering this important measure. I hope you will allow it to pass, and get the appropriation necessary to support the perm itting process. Simon Russell Farmer Hali'imaile, Maui

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Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: laluz@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucienne de Naie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support more opportunities to grow this useful and valuable crop and keep our Maui Ag workers employed. Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bigislandbabs@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Let's make this Hawaii's new crop instead of importing from other countries! This will boost our economy and is a safe, quick growing crop with hundreds of uses ! And no chance of any drug connection, since it does not have THC in it. Let's make Henry Ford's vision of all cars being made from industrial hemp come true! Let Hawaii take the lead in this area and we can export to other places instead of importing!

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Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: frankdecaria@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank O DeCaria	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2555 HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours Frank DeCaria PO Box 1432 Kapaau, HI 96755

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: terry8845@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Schroeder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, just a short note to let you know that I support the introduction of Industrial Hemp. Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully yours Terry Schroeder Lahaina

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:30 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: joshua.a.wisch@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM
Attachments: HB2555_HD1_ATG_02-25-16_FIN.pdf



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Wisch	Department of the Attorney General	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Deputy Attorney General Delanie Prescott-Tate intends to appear at the hearing.

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Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gr8tr8@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is time to take advantage of prior hemp research done in Hawaii and allow farmers to grow and determine the feasibility of growing industrial hemp. The evidence from the 2016 pilot program suggests several industries could take hold including cattle forage, raw building materials, and various seed products. I strongly support HB2555.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: arisafari7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
audrey Vanderschoot	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that in order to begin to invest in sustainable living, hemp is one of the most versatile and useful plants we could choose to produce. Any one who looks at the facts and studies the history would surely agree. We need to make some serious changes in the way we rely on plastics and chemical substances. Hemp can be a great replacement for the raw material of so many things! It's an obvious solution to replant our retired sugar cane fields with and Bamboo should be next in line!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bigislandbabs@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: liliana_akuna@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*



HB2555

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
liliana akuna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

I strongly support HB2555

27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with its pilot program. It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now!

Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports.

Respectfully yours

Mary Ann Pahukoa



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2555, H.D. 1, RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2016

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Delanie Prescott-Tate, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill, the purpose of which is to authorize the Board of Agriculture to register and allow persons to research, grow, and sell industrial hemp.

Section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 authorizes any institution of higher learning or state department of agriculture to grow industrial hemp for research purposes. At least 27 states have laws in place related to industrial hemp. Generally, states have taken three approaches: (1) establish commercial industrial hemp programs; (2) establish industrial hemp research programs; or (3) authorize studies of industrial hemp or the industrial hemp industry. Some states establishing these programs have required a change in federal laws or a waiver from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency prior to implementation.

Kentucky has enacted laws establishing an industrial hemp licensing program. It appears this bill is modeled on Kentucky's Law. In order to allow for flexibility with the changing federal laws regarding industrial hemp, Kentucky explicitly adopted the federal laws and any changes thereto. We recommend that this bill include similar wording by inserting the following section at p. 10, line 3:

§141- Adoption of federal rules and regulations. (a) Hawaii shall adopt the federal rules and regulations that are currently enacted regarding industrial hemp and any subsequent changes thereto.

(b) Nothing in this Part shall be construed to authorize any person to violate any federal rules or regulations.

(c) If any provision of this Part conflicts with a provision of federal law relating to industrial hemp that has been adopted in Hawaii under this section, the federal provision shall control to the extent of the conflict.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: valerielasciak@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
valerie Lasciak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The amazing vegetative, monetary, environmental, job creation advantages of growing Hemp are amazing and should be encouraged and supported by our legislatures!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:48 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: kalangley@gmail.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/25/2016
 Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Langley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the owner of a fiber business that sells industrial hemp, I strongly support HB2555. HD1 27 US states have already passed industrial hemp legislation. Hawaii is in a unique position to grow industrial hemp year round proven by the research done by UH over the past 2 years with it's pilot program .It's time to expand this program to all Hawaii's Farmers and Ag companies alike. If Hawaii is to be on the leading edge of this multi-million dollar industry Hawaii farmers and Large Agriculture companies need to be able to grow this crop now! Expanding the growing of industrial hemp to all Hawaii will give farmers the opportunity to grow this crop and develop seed and strains that will boost our economy while helping to clean our soil and reduce our dependency on imports. Respectfully, Kim Langley

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LATE

In Support of HB2555: Relating to Industrial Hemp

With tremendous thanks to Representative Ing for drafting it, and to Representative Thielen and the other co-sponsors for making it a reality, I'm writing in support of HB2555. I believe this legislation will prove one of the most beneficial laws to Hawaii's economy, families and farmers in years. Not only that, but I can say as a full time hemp professional that it is also one of the best hemp bills in the nation to date.

HB2555's drafters have allowed both Hawaii's private farmers and its researchers to cultivate hemp by successfully navigating the federal hemp cultivation provision, section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill.

And Hawaii needs that. The growth of the hemp industry is undeniable. Nationwide hemp acreage has increased from 350 in 2014 to 6,000 acres this past season. Farmers in the 26 states already cultivating are showing that hemp is no flash in the pan. Acreage will increase exponentially again this season. A single Colorado farmer I harvested with last season is cultivating 1,500 acres this season.

The reason the hemp industry is launching with these incredible numbers is because even today (when farmers are allowed to sell their harvest as part of sales and marketing research), farmers are receiving prices more than five times what they get for corn, soy and wheat. Kentucky's outgoing Agriculture Commissioner James Comer told me that he expects hemp to be a "top five crop in the nation within ten years."

Hawaiian farmers and processors, too, will immediately utilize this diverse crop for uses ranging from traditional (food security) to entrepreneurial (value added products for tourism and export) to environmental (soil restoration) to modern (energy independence).

Perhaps most important of all, HB2555 positions Hawaii's hemp industry to be on the leading edge when full commercial legalization inevitably comes on the federal level. This head start will be further augmented by Hawaii's climate, which allows year round planting of this short duration crop. This in turn permits the state's farmers and academics to lead research into both modern seed cultivars and hemp applications. Kudos to Rep. Ing and the legislature for putting forth a single bill that will be worth billions to the economy, allow independent farmers to make a substantial living, and help provide the state's residents with a regenerative future.

In conclusion, I'd like to shout out three of the bill's co-sponsors. First, Rep. Thielen, who has been tirelessly advocating for hemp around the world for two decades. She knows this crop's value to the future economy, and thanks goodness hemp's time has come while she's still in office. Second, Speaker Souki: I strolled into his office one morning two years ago to advocate for that sessions' hemp bill, and he graciously met with me, expressed support, took a copy of my book, and predicted that it'd be one or two years before a significant hemp bill allowing private cultivation passed. He was right. And of course, immense thanks goes to Rep. Ing for so early in his career seeing the real good that can be done for his constituents through hemp's cultivation, especially with major economic changes in place on Maui. HB2555 represents a positive watershed for Hawaii.

-Doug Fine
Author, *Hemp Bound*
Grant County, New Mexico

LATE

Aloha,

I am a farmer with land in Huelo, and I see only benefits in legalizing the growth of Industrial Hemp. There are benefits from clothing, to energy, medicinal, and material use. I hope you vote in support of this bill as I strongly support everything about Hemp and this bill HB2555.

Mahalo for your time, Please make a righteous decision,

Harry K. Pahukoa III
Fisherman/Farmer
Ke'anae / Huelo, Maui

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 3:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pahukoapearl@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pearl Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: keanaegirly@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2555 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM*

HB2555

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Healoha Carmichael	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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