

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson, Board of
Agriculture

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 14, 2019
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1351
RELATING TO HEMP

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1351, which allows the department's seed certification personnel to perform inspections for its hemp program, and charge fees for the performance of such inspections. The Department strongly supports this measure.

The hemp program currently has one employee and needs access to more personnel and resources to run an expanded program. The ability to utilize already-existing seed certification program personnel currently located on three islands would allow the Department to expand its program capacity in an efficient manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-1351

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:52:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1351

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 4:26:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:



HAWAI'I
CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY

LATE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety supports: SB1351

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

My name is Lauryn Rego and I am the Hawai'i program co-director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 1 million farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 11,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this important bill.

I am writing today, in support of SB1351. I would like to take the opportunity to note that on the matter of accidental violations, Hawai'i's hemp farmers are going to need support and flexibility. Hemp seeds which have historically produced low THC levels in other regions can suddenly behave differently under Hawai'i's tropical growing conditions. These farmers are going to need the option to retest or recondition crops that accidentally test over. We hope to see these accommodations adopted by the Department of Agriculture in their hemp plan. Crop destruction, license suspension and revocation should only be used as a measure of last resort.

Respectfully,
Lauryn Rego
Hawai'i Program Co-Director
Center for Food Safety

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