

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

**10:00 A.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2285**  
**RELATING TO HEMP**

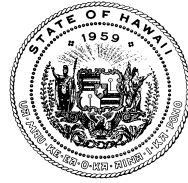
Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2285. This measure repeals the 6/30/2022 sunset date of Act 14, SLH 2020, which established statutory provisions relating to hemp production and processing. The Department supports this bill.

Under Act 14, SLH 2020, the Department of Agriculture was tasked with monitoring the intrastate transportation of hemp and regulating hemp cultivation within the State. This measure provides continued regulatory authority for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for hemp, legalized cultivation of hemp in the State, and processing and sale of hemp pursuant to certificate of registration issued by the Hawaii Department of Health. Licensing for hemp cultivation is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture hemp production program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2285  
RELATING TO HEMP**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: 2/9/2022

Room Number: 325/Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
- 2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
- 3 personnel priorities.
  
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure since it will continue the
- 5 Department's Hemp Processor Registry Program, which provides local hemp farmers a legal
- 6 regulatory pathway to bring consumable hemp products to market while protecting consumers by
- 7 requiring allowable hemp products sold in Hawaii be tested for contaminants and labeled
- 8 cannabinoid content.
  
- 9 **Offered Amendments:** None.
  
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

KO'OLAUA  WAIALUA  
A L L I A N C E

Feb 5, 2022

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Ko'olau Waialua Alliance would like to express support for bill HB2285. Please repeal the sunset date of this bill. Growing hemp in Hawaii would be a real boon to agriculture. Hemp can be grown on lands that are not suitable for food growing. Hawaii grown hemp products would sell themselves without marketing at premium prices to visitors and residents. Hemp is a versatile, durable and ecofriendly product. It can be used in a variety of ways to create quality products.

Continued confusion that some lawmakers still have with hemp and cannabis is disheartening.

Mahalo for advancing this measure,

Angela Huntmer for the members of the Ko'olau Waialua Alliance.  
808-224-3101

[koolauwaialuaalliance@protonmail.com](mailto:koolauwaialuaalliance@protonmail.com)

The Ko'olau Waialua Alliance is a grassroots network of residents and community groups across Oahu's north and windward shores that believes that our health and well-being are woven together in the same cloth, that problems affecting one community in the region threaten us all, and that works to foster a just and sustainable region for current and future generations.

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:47:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Life of the Land supports this measure.



[www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org](http://www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org)

February 4, 2022

RE: Opposed to HB 2285

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity for us to share our concerns about HB 2285, which is a blanket reauthorization of Act 14. Unless SB 2285 is amended, this bill continues to create more unnecessary regulation for the most regulated hemp farmers in the country. There is also concern about redefining hemp in HB 2285, which is likely not the intent of the Legislature in 2020.

SB 2986 is our preferred bill and addresses many of the problems with a blanket reauthorization of Act 14. We have asked SB 2986 to be amended to include an extension of Act 14, the primary intent of HB 2285, but with the very needed changes to Hawaii hemp rules that are not included in HB 2285.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ray Maki*      *Gail Byrne Baber*  
Ray Maki      Gail Byrne Baber  
President      Vice President



February 7, 2022

Re: Oppose HB 2285 with Amendment

Aloha,

Thank you for your time. Unless SB 2285 is amended, this bill continues to create more unnecessary regulation for the most regulated hemp farmers in the country. There is also concern about redefining hemp in HB 2285, which is likely not the intent of the Legislature in 2020.

Hawaii hemp farmers prefer SB 2986 that addresses many of the problems with a blanket reauthorization of Act 14.

Aloha,

*Clarence A Baber*  
Clarence A. Baber

# Hawaii Hemp Farmers Center

## Community Based Project by Farmers

hihempfarmers.org

February 7, 2022

Re: Oppose HB 2285

Aloha,

The Hawaii Hemp Farmers Center is dedicated to advocating for the needs of Hawaii's Farmers. Hawaii farmers birthed the hemp and CBD market in Hawaii but have mostly shut out of participating in \$32,000,000i per year Hawaii CBD market – that money is being primarily exported.

We are opposed to HB 2285 because it is a blanket reauthorization of Act 14 without amending Hawaii hemp laws and rules which needs to be amended to support farmer needs.

The Hawaii Hemp Farmers Center supports:

1. Eliminating Double Regulation of Hawaii Hemp Farmers - Hawaii Farmers' production (growing) of hemp is regulated by the US Department of Agriculture. We are the ONLY state that double regulates farmers production (USDA and State DOA), requiring farmers to get permission to move their crop for any processing or sales. Imagine a papaya or tomato farmer forced to get permission from the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture before selling or processing their crops! The unnecessary paperwork now required by the State and the potential fines for not filing (\$10,000) are the most draconian hemp production rules in the country.
2. Allowing Hawaii Farmers to Sell All Hemp and CBD Products to Hawaii Residents - Hawaii farmers are restricted in selling numerous hemp and CBD products in Hawaii. But these products are regularly purchased online and in stores in Hawaii by Hawaii residents. We're asking the Legislature to allow Hawaii's farmers the same opportunity and access to Hawaii markets that farmers in other states have in Hawaii right now by default.
3. Transparency in Hawaii Hemp Products Labels - We support label transparency for Hawaii consumers, so they know how much Hawaii hemp is in hemp products claiming Hawaii branding. Hawaii farmers have the highest cost of production and living in the country. To support and grow Hawaii's agricultural economy we need to allow consumers the transparent option to buy local, which supports our economy. Right now the CBD industry is extractive, with most of the profits leaving Hawaii.

Thank you for supporting Hawaii farmers by deferring HB 2285.

Aloha,

  
Gail Byrne Baber

hihempfarmers@gmail.com  
<https://hihempfarmers.org>





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HFUU

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HFUU

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Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawai'ian islands. **HFUU strongly opposes HB2285** as it would continue unnecessary and duplicative regulation of a burgeoning industry at considerable expense to the state.

Hemp farmers have developed [SB2986](#) that addresses many of the problems with a blanket reauthorization of Act 14. SB2986 would eliminate duplicative regulation by HDOA, without it however **HB2285 continues onerous regulation for the most regulated hemp farmers in the nation.**

Act 14 was designed to sunset the Hawaii Hemp Pilot Program and defer regulation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA regulation oversees the production, record keeping and reporting for all hemp growers. The USDA requires testing of all crops before harvesting at designated laboratories, and has the authority to engage law enforcement if needed. Duplicative regulation at the state level will come at the expense of state funds and damage to this industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Representative Mark Hashem, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Amy Perusso, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**RE: House Bill 2285 – RELATING TO HEMP.**  
**Hearing Date: February 9, 2022**

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

My name is Thomas “Scooter” Walsh, and I am the President of South Maui Gardens (“SMG”). SMG would like to submit **COMMENTS** on HB 2285, a measure that proposes to repeal the sunset date of Act 14 SLH 2020, which established statutory provisions relating to hemp production and processing.

SMG has been an active agricultural grower on the island of Maui for over ten (10) years. We have over 180,000 square feet of private green house space in Kula, which includes our hemp operations, and operate a full-scale professional nursery in South Kihei, which services local landscapers and private owners, and commercial entities such as hotels, banks and shopping centers. We employ over 60 residents of the County of Maui.

SMG is committed to supporting Hawaii’s agriculture industry and views the hemp industry as a much-needed opportunity to diversify our local economy. Given this, we appreciate the bill's support of the industry through a proposed repeal of the sunset date.

However, the overly burdensome regulations set forth in Act 14 in its current form are hindering the viability of this industry. SMG and other hemp growers have suffered financial losses under the currently regulatory scheme and will continue to do so without much needed regulatory change. Accordingly, while we support the repeal of the sunset, we respectfully ask that this measure incorporate all the proposed revisions/solutions set forth in SB 2986, another vehicle relating to Hemp.

Thank you for your service to the State and your strong commitment to Hawaii agriculture and to hemp. We look forward to continuing the conversation with you.

Thomas “Scooter” Walsh

President  
South Maui Gardens

[info@southmauigardens.com](mailto:info@southmauigardens.com)

Office: 808-419-6562

Fax: 808-419-6682

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:57:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Vince Kana`i Dodge	`Ai Pohaku	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

Writing in strong support of HB 2285.

Aloha Nui!

Vince Dodge

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:31:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Teresa Gardner	Art Farm	Support	No

Comments:

As a farmer I am writing in strong Support of replealing the 6/30/22 susnset date

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:51:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am in strong support of this bill, which will empower local producers.

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:59:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill HB2285.

thank you,

Drew Wilkinson

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:32:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Austin Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

hemp is a new and sustainable way of life, it provides nitrogen for our soils, as well as sustainable products, like building materials for mild free and breathable homes, It can help save trees, and be used to replace concrete, hemp is also a sustainable food source, and grows faster than most other plants, hemp can also provide a lot of bio mad to put the carbon back in the ground too.

hemp can also be used to replace harmful charcoal, so on so fourth hemp has many benefits in cleaning up this world way faster than we destroyed her, and making this a sustainable place.

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:46:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of HB2285. Why continue hampering Hawaii's small - batch farmers? Let's discontinue the practice of over regulating local growers. This provides unfair advantages to mainland importer competition and keeps Hawaii farmers out of Hawaii's markets. Mahalo.



**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:27:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2285.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:34:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

Enough already - hemp should already be cultivated and established as a significant crop in Hawaii.

I am an active volunteer in Maui County with ag-related organizations seeking sustainable solutions for our food future. Hemp is so multipurposed and tailor made for our environment.

Please advance this bill for the sake of our food and environmental future.

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:02:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members, as a long time Hawaii resident and educator in our schools, I strongly urge the passing of this Bill. Thank you!

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:33:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brent Neal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Re: HB 2285 - oppose

Aloha,

I appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2285 in its current form. This bill is detrimental to Hawaii hemp farmers' participation in this industry. It would continue unnecessary and duplicative regulation of Hawaii's hemp farmers and allow excessive and unreasonable fines and expenses for farmers, prevent on-farm small batch processing as well as the in-state sale of biomass. A more farmer friendly bill is SB 2986, which I do support. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brent Neal

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:27:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brittany Neal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Re: HB 2285 - oppose

Aloha,

I appreciate this opportunity to testify on HB 2285. I am a USDA licensed hemp producer in Hawaii and I strongly oppose HB 2285 in its current form. This bill would continue duplicative regulation of Hawaii's hemp farmers which is unnecessary and detrimental to Hawaii's farmers participation in this industry. HB 2285 would continue to allow for excessive and unreasonable fines and expenses for farmers, prevent on-farm small batch processing as well as the in-state sale of biomass. A more farmer friendly bill is SB 2986, which I do support. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I appreciate your support of Hawaii agriculture and our hemp farming community.

Sincerely,

Brittany Neal MSOM, BSN, RN, USDA Hemp Producer, HHFA Board Member

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:16:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in strong support

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:18:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I strongly support your passing HB2285, the bill which will allow legal use of Hemp beyond the June 30, 2022 sunset provision. Hemp is useful crop, and despite its association with cannabis, does not cause any of the drug-associated problems of its cousin. It must makes good economic sense to extend the legal growing of such a valuable product.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

Aloha,

Ramona Hussey

**HB-2285**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 4:29:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Erick Peter Ehrhorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: [COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE](#)

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Please be advised that I favor this bill as it will at least keep Hemp legal. I feel that laws against Hemp and Marijuana are just stupid. These are plants made by God on the third day of creation. It is not made by Man who uses various chemicals to produce a chemical High. I ask which do you think is better? God's or Man's invention. Since the war on drugs, I have seen nothing but stronger and stronger drugs. It is time to stop or slow down stronger drugs and the only way to do this is to make weaker drugs available.

I am tired of having to fight for something that should have been made legal decades ago. For those who say well the Federal Government has made it illegal. It is time to stand up for state rights and just say no to big brother running our lives.

Please stop the silliness and just legalize everything and open it up. Legal pot is a joke. You have to first get a perscription and then pay double or more than the black market. Why do you want it to fail?