

SB-2973

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:54:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maureen Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill to improve our hemp industry.

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
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRAURY 2, 2022

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2973
RELATING TO HEMP PRODUCTION

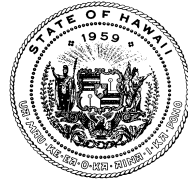
Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2973. This measure extends regulatory authority of the Department of Agriculture (“Department”) for hemp production until June 30, 2024. The Department supports this bill and offers comments.

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 bill would extend the sunset date for Act 14 until June 30, 2024, This measure provides continued regulatory authority for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for hemp, continued legalized cultivation of hemp in the State, and processing and sale of hemp pursuant to licenses 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 SB2973
RELATING TO HEMP PRODUCTION**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: 2/2/2022 Room Number: CR224/Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department supports this bill as it includes a revenue stream to carry
2 out its intent.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure since it will continue the
4 Department's Hemp Processor Registry Program, which provides local hemp farmers a legal
5 regulatory pathway to bring consumable hemp products to market while protecting consumers by
6 requiring allowable hemp products sold in Hawaii be tested for contaminants and labeled
7 cannabinoid content.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:42:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gail Byrne Baber	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii hemp farmers are the most regulated hemp farmers in the country and it has had devastating financial impacts on our communities. Please ensure if ACT 14 is renewed, that resulting rules should only address buffers and fines *only* for growing without a hemp license. All other hemp production/growing rules are covered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture growing licenses, including sampling by certified labs and inspections, as needed. We do not need to be double regulated for inspections and potential fines. Leading hemp economist, Beau Whitney, has stated the primary failure of the Hawaii hemp industry is over regulation.

Aloha,

Gail

USDA Hemp Licensee

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Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:59:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Less regulation on hemp cultivation, not more!

SB-2973

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:14:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Bence	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

aloha opposed to SB2973 mahalo

SB-2973

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:27:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reba Lopez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As president of the Haleakala Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, and a family farmer at Birds with Arms Farms, I would like to testify in opposition of this bill. Mahalo.



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FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2973
RELATING TO HEMP PRODUCTION

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2973, which extends regulatory authority of the Department of Agriculture over hemp production until June 30, 2024.

Industrial hemp continues to provide an opportunity for our farmers to diversify and expand agriculture production into new areas. Hemp is a very versatile agricultural product that is used to make a variety of products including clothing, food, animal feed, paper, biofuels, construction material, medicinal products, and various non-medicinal products.

This measure will continue to support and grow Hawaii's hemp industry by extending a federally compliant hemp production program in the state

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

RE: Senate Bill 2973 – RELATING TO HEMP PRODUCTION
Hearing Date: February 2, 2022

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Thomas “Scooter” Walsh, and I am the President of South Maui Gardens (“SMG”). SMG would like to thank the committee for hearing Senate Bill 2973, which proposes to extend the sunset date of Act 14, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020 (“Act 14”), to June 30, 2024. **SMG supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.**

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 view the hemp industry as a much-needed opportunity to diversify our local economy. Given this, we appreciate this bill's recognition of the need to extend Act 14 so that our company, other hemp growers state-wide and our employees are permitted to continue hemp production in the State. However, we respectfully request that the sunset be repealed in its entirety to give the industry more certainty as we move forward and seek further growth and expansion.

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

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SB-2973

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:41:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Harriet Witt	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill will make it difficult for our farmers to remain in business. Without them, we are dangerously dependent on shipments from the mainland.