

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 13, 2023
2:20 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 312 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1424
RELATING TO HEMP

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1424. This measure requires that the identity statement used for labeling or advertising hemp products identify the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this bill and offers comments.

DOA supports this measure but currently lacks the funding and resources necessary to execute its responsibilities imposed by this measure and would require a one full time measurement standards inspector for the purpose of labeling and packaging enforcement and inspection to do so. The inspector will help rebuild DOA's labeling enforcement capability that was lost during the severe reductions in force that occurred in prior administrations, and enable DOA to address labeling enforcement challenges in various Hawaii products such as inspecting and verifying the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products. The inspector will take the lead in researching and utilizing newly developed testing technologies and protocols, such as Oritain (<https://oritain.com>), to identify the source of



different products geographically. Oritain can generate science-based data that identifies specific growing regions as a proof and confirmation of truth or false labeling. The estimated cost for one FT Measurement Standards Inspector (\$65,000) and provide the tools to perform the duties (\$20,000) will be \$85,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1424
RELATING TO HEMP**

REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Hearing Date: 2/13/2023 Room Number: CR 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will 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 appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony by
5 offering comments on HB1424, which requires a producer of a hemp product to include in the
6 identity statement of any hemp product, the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp in the hemp
7 product, and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products.

8 The Department's interim rules, Chapter 11-37, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Hemp
9 Processing and Hemp Products, became effective on August 9, 2021, and assures that hemp
10 products sold in Hawaii are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

11 The Department does not support local hemp products declaring the percentage of Hawaii
12 grown hemp and non-local products declaring the origin and percentage of hemp. The
13 Department cannot determine the origin or percentage of Hawaii grown hemp or hemp grown
14 outside of Hawaii of a hemp product. There is no industry standard to determine the actual
15 percentage or origin of hemp for effective enforcement and the Department lacks the resources to
16 effectively prove any fraudulent occurrence. The regulatory burden this section places on the
17 Department is outside the scope of the Department's mission to protect public health and is
18 likely more effectively achieved by other means.

19

20 **Offered Amendments:** None

1

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

3

4



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February 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1424
RELATING TO HEMP

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
2:20 PM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1424, which requires that the identity statement used for labeling or advertising hemp products identify the percentage of Hawai'i grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products.

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 Hawai'i's hemp industry by ensuring that hemp produced in the State is labeled as Hawai'i produced and that hemp produced outside the State is labeled with the appropriate origin.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 5:54:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Corker	Rancho Aloha	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Members of the Agriculture Committee:

As a Hawaii County farmer, I strongly support HB1424 and applaud Chair Gates for introducing this bill.

This measure provides TRUTH-IN-LABELING for the benefit of farmers and consumers. The State of Hawaii needs to protect the integrity of its specialty agricultural crops in the same way that Idaho protects its Idaho Potatoes, Vermont protects Vermont Maple Syrup, California protects its wines, and France protects Champagne from deceptive labeling.

Why is Hawaii allowing use of the Hawaii name and Hawaii regional names on labels of packages containing products not produced in Hawaii?

This measure joins other House bills filed this Session to protect the interests of Hawaii coffee farmers (HB259, HB559), Hawaii macnut farmers (HB1348), and Hawaii mamaki tea growers (HB1250). Please enact HB1424—and these other TRUTH-IN-LABELING measures for the benefit of farmers and to protect the reputation and integrity of our Hawaii-grown agricultural products.

Thank you.

Bruce Corker

Rancho Aloha

Holualoa, Hawaii County

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:44:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suellen Barton	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which will give much needed relief to tge shrinking hemp industry here in tge islands



www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org

February 12, 2023

RE: SUPPORT HB 1424 Origin Labeling for Hemp Products

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

Thank you for your continued support of Hawaii Hemp farmers. The Hawaii Hemp Farmers Association, which is composed of Hawaii hemp farmers, processors, and manufacturers, is in strong support of HB 1424.

Hawaii hemp farmers have the highest costs of production among U.S. hemp farmers. Because Hawaii branded products often garner more in the marketplace, accurate origin labeling is one of the few ways for Hawaii hemp farmers can remain competitive which also creates a more circular economy that benefits Hawaii residents.

Origin labeling protects the quality and authenticity of Hawaii's hemp industry and supports the recognition of Hawaii farmers' hard work is accurately represented in the marketplace while supporting consumers right to transparency.

Further, the Hawaii hemp cannabinoid market is approximated to be \$32,000,000 to \$54,000,000 annually, but most of that money flows to out-of-state hemp farmers and businesses due in part to Hawaii residents not being able to differentiate between products made with imported hemp and products made with Hawaii grown hemp.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Respectfully,

Gail Byrne Baber

Gail Byrne Baber

President and Farmer

Ray Maki

Ray Maki

Co-Vice President and Farmer

Brittany Neal

Brittany Neal

Co-Vice President and Farmer

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:17:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:48:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii hemp farmers have the highest costs of production among U.S. hemp farmers. Because Hawaii branded products often garner more in the marketplace, accurate origin labeling is one of the few ways for Hawaii hemp farmers can remain competitive which also creates a more circular economy that benefits Hawaii residents.

Origin labeling protects the quality and authenticity of Hawaii’s hemp industry and supports the recognition of Hawaii farmers’ hard work is accurately represented in the marketplace while supporting consumers right to transparency.

Further, the Hawaii hemp cannabinoid market is approximated to be \$32,000,000 to \$54,000,000 annually, but most of that money flows to out-of-state hemp farmers and businesses due in part to Hawaii residents not being able to differentiate between products made with imported hemp and products made with Hawaii grown hemp.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:54:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It's a no Brainer. Hawaii sells. Label it.

Mahalo,

JN Makawao

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:10:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Koch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important that labeling be clear, accurate, and easily understandable by the consumer.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:11:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chet Gardiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to urge a Yes vote on HB1424.

It is vitally important that ever effort be made to improve Hawai'i's agriculture and food security at the grass roots level. In the not too distant future, the People of Hawai'i will be more dependent upon what we can grow, make and distribute on the Islands.

Just as the Truth in labeling for coffee will protect consumers and farmers of one of our most important agricultural products, HB1424 will aid Hawai'i's hemp and canabanoid producers.

Again, this is a matter of honesty and fairness for consumers and mostly small farmers here in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your support and Yes vote for HB1424.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:03:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail P. Gnazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support labeling percentage of Hawaii grown to prevent earlier debacle w coffee.
HHawaii grown matters.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:05:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill, HB1424.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:45:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 1424.

Hawaiian grown hemp is a speciality crop and needs to be recognized as such. People need to know what they are buying!

Please pass HB 1424,

Mahalo,

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:20:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vibrant Hemp Industry in Hawaii is a perfect fit.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:34:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

support

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:35:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support hb1424



Officers

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State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
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Reba Lopez
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Chantal Chung
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Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

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 Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB1424.**

Our organization supports the timely passage of this bill, as HB1424 would require that the identity statement for hemp products identify the percentage of Hawaiian-grown hemp and hemp of other origins.

We recognize the value of both locally-sourced and imported hemp products to the markets in Hawaii and the need to provide transparency to consumers. With the labeling and advertising requirements of HB1424, consumers will know exactly what they are buying. This legislation is a pivotal step in the right direction when it comes to investing in local businesses and promoting transparency within the hemp industry. It is our hope that this bill will be passed quickly so we can continue to move forward in our mission to make Hawaii a hub of sustainable and ethical farming practices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 1:35:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olaf Behrendt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an organic & regenerative methods farmer I strongly support this bill.

Hawaiian agriculture must include and promote Hemp as one of the most valuable crop for the land.

Soil and peoples health will highly benefit and profitable markets are guaranteeing successful new endeavors.

HB-1424

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:22:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Trujillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE PASS HB1424

MAHALO