



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0516
RELATING TO HEMP**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: 2/8/2023 Room Number: CR 329

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 SB0516, 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

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
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 516
RELATING TO HEMP**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 516. 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 budget allocation to execute its responsibilities and would require a one full time measurement standards inspector for the purpose of labeling and packaging enforcement and inspection. The inspector will help rebuild DOA's labeling enforcement capability that was lost during the RIF, and 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 new recognized testing measures to identify different products geographically such as Oritain technology (<https://oritain.com>), which can generate science-based data



from specific growing regions as a proof and confirmation of truth or false labeling.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org

February 7, 2023

RE: SUPPORT SB 516

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

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 SB 516.

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 to remain competitive in addition to creating 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

SB 516

Labeling for Hemp Products

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:37:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harriet Witt	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill for the sake of our economic future!



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 8, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 516
RELATING TO HEMP

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 SB 516, 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.

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 6:22:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair & Committee Members:

Proper and complete labeling is necessary. We are all consumers and we all must be informed about where our purchased products are coming from.

Hawaii must support our farmers and look out for the deceptions caused by imported commodities such as chocolate, coffee, macadamia nuts, etc. Hemp is a healthy and strong example of how and why Hawaii can and should show responsibility to our own community and not to profits of outsiders.

Lets' start at home and ensure that Hawaii farmers can and do receive the recognition and incomes due; support this legislation in order for success to be achieved by Hawaii hemp production able to sustain itself.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:41:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Zuckerman	Testifying for Kuwale Ridge Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill SB 516. All Hawaii grown brands/products need to be protected by truth in labeling laws. Not only does this help promote and make Hawaii farmers competitive but it also protects consumers so they are not being deceived by labeling. This is very evident in the hawaii hemp sector. Hawaii has the potential to become a epicenter of hemp production but action needs to be taken to protect this budding industry. There are already high costs associated with growing hemp in Hawaii and action needs to be taken so that these farmers can create a competitive market using the "Grown in Hawaii" label to their advantage.

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:00:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Henbest	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB516 and our local farmers.

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:21:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:16:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will enable hemp producers in Hawaii to stay competitive.

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:22:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ray maki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

As a struggling Hawaii hemp farmer, I am in support of SB 516.

I am happy to see the State finally pick up the important details of the Hawaii hemp program that should have been implimented in previous years.

Mahalo,

Ray Maki

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:54:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: SB 516

Aloha,

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 516. I would like to say thank you for your support of Hawaii hemp farmers, especially during this unprecedented time. The work you are doing is instrumental for Hawaii's future and the survival of its small businesses. Many small businesses, including Hawaii's hemp farms, are doing their very best to weather this storm but need your help in order to do so.

I am a licensed USDA hemp farmer and Vice President of the Hawaii Hemp Farmers Association. I have had the opportunity to work with and speak with many licensed hemp farmers around the state and hope you will pass SB 516. It requires no-cost, supports Hawaii's agricultural industry, benefits the local economy and would improve the hemp program.

Requiring all hemp products sold in Hawaii to identify on the label in clearly readable font, the percentage of Hawaii-grown hemp in the product, would help protect the Hawaii reputation and keep related money's circulating in our community. As an example, if a Hawaii branded hemp product contains 100% synthetic CBD from China and 0% Hawaiian-grown CBD and someone using the product doesn't achieve their desired effect or heaven forbid, gets hurt from it being adulterated, Hawaii's hemp industry develops a bad reputation and China makes a profit from it. That is not right and Hawaii should not be exploited!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittany Neal MSOM, BSN, RN

USDA Licensed Hawaii Hemp Farmer

Hawaii Hemp Farmers Association, Vice President

SB-516

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:00:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re:SB 516

I support the passage of SB 516. This bill supports local agriculture and will benefit the Hawaii hemp industry while providing transparency for consumers. Thank you for your support of local agriculture.

Mahalo,

Brent Neal