



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2444 HD1
RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 02/27/2024

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (department) supports this measure as it
3 will allow the department to meet the legislative intent of Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii
4 2023, to conduct criminal history checks on consenting hemp processor applicants. Act 263
5 provided two options by which a hemp processor applicant can satisfy the criminal background
6 check requirement:

- 7 1. Agree to and pass fingerprint and criminal background check by the department, or
8 2. Submit a valid USDA license to grow hemp to the department during the application
9 process.

10 Currently, because the department does not have the authority to conduct criminal history checks
11 on consenting hemp processor applicants, only those applicants who have satisfactorily passed a
12 criminal background check to obtain a USDA license to grow hemp can apply to be a permitted
13 hemp processor (option #2).

14 Amending section 846-2.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as proposed by this measure will
15 allow the department to conduct the fingerprinting and criminal history record checks required
16 on those applying under option #1 above. Without this amendment, the department will be

1 unable to issue hemp processor permits to those applicants who do not have a valid USDA
2 license to grow hemp.

3 Note:

4 An agency can conduct a state or national criminal history record check only after the Federal
5 Bureau of Investigation – Office of the General Counsel Criminal Justice Information Law Unit
6 approves the proposed statutory language in section 847-2.7, HRS. The department requested an
7 expedited review of the amendments to section 846-2.7 and is currently waiting for a response.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024
12:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 and VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2444 HD1
RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2444 HD1. This bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct criminal history record checks of applicants for permits to operate as a hemp processor. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this bill, however, defers to DOH and offers comments.

HDOA regulates buffer zones of hemp farms and the transport of hemp materials while DOH regulates hemp products and hemp processing within the state. HDOA understands that hemp farmers applying for hemp processor's permit are exempt from additional criminal history record checks if they have a valid USDA hemp producer license.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB-2444-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:34:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo Lankford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the limiting of 5 cards per grow site.

HB-2444-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:59:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, growing is legal in many states and research has shown Cannabis helps many ailments and should be accessible to everyone at an affordable rate. I have been witness to its miraculous effects. If this bill is ratified it will create difficulty and pain for me, my family, my friends, and our island community.

Please deny this bill! Thank you.