

**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  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

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

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1270**  
**RELATING TO HEMP**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

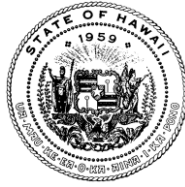
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1270. This measure establishes a task force to gather data and information and make recommendations to the legislature on strategies and actions to support a vibrant hemp industry, agriculture, and rural economic development. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this bill and offers comments.

DOA strongly supports the Hawaii hemp industry but respectfully does not agree with the statements regarding "overregulation of production," on page 1, line 13, and that Hawaii is the only state regulating hemp farming at the state level, on page 1, lines 16 and 17. DOA does not regulate farming of hemp within the state. The USDA regulates the entire production such as growing, harvesting and other on-farm operations including licensing of Hawaii hemp growers. Monitoring transport of hemp materials (flowers, leaves, viable seeds) and buffer zone restrictions are not part of USDA regulatory function. These are responsibilities assigned to DOA under Act 14, SLH 2020 as amended by Act 137, SLH 2020, that are necessary to ensure such nonfarming intrastate activities are conducted in a safe, healthy, and appropriate



manner. The Department looks forward to working with the hemp farmers as they create a vibrant industry for Hawaii.

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](mailto:doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov)

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1270  
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 supports this measure and offers the following  
5 comments on HB1270. The Department welcomes the opportunity to participate on a task force  
6 with hemp industry stakeholders, and the Department of Agriculture, to gather data and  
7 information to respond to a rapidly changing hemp environment.

8 The Department does not agree that hemp processors are overregulated by Chapter  
9 328G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-37 Hawaii Administrative Rules. These  
10 are the only regulations that allow hemp processors to legally process hemp into hemp  
11 products that are compliant with contaminant testing and safe for consumer consumption.  
12 Additionally, on January 26, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said that  
13 cannabidiol (CBD) products will require a new regulatory pathway and cannot be  
14 considered dietary supplements or food additives. FDA highlights potential risks and  
15 safety concerns around harm to the liver, interactions with certain medications, and effects  
16 on the male reproductive system, as well as exposure among children and pregnant people.  
17 While FDA works with Congress to develop a strategy, hemp processors and hemp  
18 products will continue to be subject to the Department's regulatory authority.

19

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

1

2 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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February 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1270**  
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 1270**, which establishes a task force to gather data and information and make recommendations to the legislature on strategies and actions to support a vibrant hemp industry, agriculture, and rural economic development.

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.

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

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:36:35 AM

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

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

Comments:

Strongly support this bill recognizing tge incredible potential of a Hawaiian hemp industry!  
Unlimited potential financially & great for the planet & the islands.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:58:31 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dotty Kelly-Paddock	Hauula Community Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HCA strongly supports HB1270, SB655, HB1424 on behalf of farmers in Ko'olauloa and the whole state!



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

February 12, 2023

RE: Strongly Support HB 1270 Hemp Task Force

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

The Hawaii Hemp Farmers Association strongly supports HB 1270 for the reasons stated in the bill. The hemp industry has quickly evolved in the last four years and greater communication and sharing of data between the state and hemp farmers and industry members will facilitate the following likely outcomes:

- Save agencies time and resources by identifying data that will facilitate the implementation of supportive agricultural policy that protects consumers and the environment;
- Create more viable opportunities for Hawaii farmers through policy that recognizes the unique needs of farming in Hawaii;
- Support greater food security by identifying the paths forward for great hemp seed production; a very nutritious source of plant protein with numerous vitamins and mineral and essential fatty acids; and,
- Create rural economic development opportunities by identifying infrastructure and next steps forward to support a vibrant hemp industry across all sectors, fiber, fuel, CBD, and food.

Thank you for your continued support of Hawaii Hemp farmers.

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 1270

Hemp Task Force



**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:09:34 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AHK is in strong support of this bill as hemp can provide us with the feed replacement for livestock, which is getting cost prohibitive to raise livestock. We need to have an industry that will provide for ag waste that can be then turned into feed.

TO: House Committee on Agriculture Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members

FROM: Robert Bence Hawai'i Sustainable Farms

DATE: 2/12/2023

RE: HEMP SUGGEST AMENDING TO INCLUDE MIRCOGREENS AND TERPENES AS TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND SUPPORT (HB 1270)

I am a local disabled diversified farmer growing on family lands purchased with help from a USDA direct farm mortgage and in Waimanalo as part of a partnership on state lease land farming full-time since graduation of UH Mānoa with BBA. I am passionate about growing food and hemp is a superfood especially as a mircogreen.

As a licensed hemp grower under USDA I have been told by the contact at the USDA that we can develop a plan with USDA to grow and sell mircogreens as other state do without testing as the production factors don't allow for the time required to form significant cannabinoids and the time required to test so rather a system is designed and followed to ensure successful production. The state movement rules seem confusing in this area so believe amending the task force to include a member from microgreens as well as any other relief the legislature can offer.

The Taskforce may require odd numbers and the cannabinoid member could be complemented with a terpene member as they are often a similar market that is heavily regulated.

Mahalo

Robert Bence  
Hawai'i Sustainable Farms

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:18:18 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:36:37 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:05:30 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this measure. We should do whatever we can to help establish Hemp as a sustainable crop here.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:19:56 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexa caskey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and adding hemp to maui's agriculture.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:41:17 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hemp is a high-value crop that has the potential to bring significant and diverse revenues to Hawaii. The industry has been stymied because of factors including limited market access and overregulation of production and processing, which have driven Hawaii hemp farmers out of business, made Hawaii hemp farmers noncompetitive, and created challenges for hemp building, housing, and biofuel projects.

Hawaii is the only state in the country that regulates hemp farming at the state level but also asked for regulation by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Departments of health and agriculture have worked to be responsive to changing federal and state hemp regulations. Creation of a task force will provide a forum for regular interactions among the Hawaii hemp industry and experts to help to identify data that will facilitate the implementation of policy and save agency time and resources.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:49:18 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA,

Strong support for HB 1270

Mahalo,

JN Makawao



**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:00:40 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terry Huth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1270. Hawaii is an ideal environment for the cultivation of hemp and it could provide many benefits to the workforce and the environment.

I encourage all committee members to support this legislation so Hawaii can grow its own supply of this incredibly useful agricultural product.

Thank you for your support.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:08:06 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Koch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this. HI needs diversification!

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:01:39 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chet Gardiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1270.

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.

It is also extremely important that the loudest voices involved in planning for the future must include small farmers and average consumers. This bill will go a long way toward that desired end.

Thank you for your support.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:02:57 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ktreese Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1270.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:06:32 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ktreese Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB669.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:16:08 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marlene Kamuela Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Marlene K Purdy strongly support HB1270. Mahalo!

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:51:14 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail P. Gnazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass in order to provide basis for Hawaii farmers to further diversify crops w important health & economic value to Hawaii.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:04:40 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, HB1270.



**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:36:17 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

i strongly support HB1270.

This is a smart decision and will support so many issues that our islands face.

A task force devoted to Hemp cultivation will assist this important industry to move forward with easy and compliance to state and federal laws which are ever changing.

Hawaiian grown hemp, truly an economic and environmental boon to our island community!

Mahalo,

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:19:02 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vibrant Hemp Industry in Hawaii, a perfect fit.

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:08:51 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia L. Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support research being done for a vibrant Hemp Industry on Maui!

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:22:36 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of HFUU, I support HB1270. Mahalo, Marian Huff

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:33:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John James Lester	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

APPOSED to HB1270

Aloha Chair and Members,

NO VOTE OR HB1270

Aloha Committee Chair and members.

We have been struggling for years to stop CBD farms from being grown next to existing houses, churches, schools, playgrounds and hospitals and doctors offices. My concern is that this task force - if anything like the dual use taskforce that was just held last year - will be a rubber stamp for the industry - based on false projections of money to be made and playing down the very real risk to our children and our homes from the stench and problems with large growers. Please to not buy the fallacy they are selling.

It is imperative that CBD NOT be grown within 500 feet of anyone's existing home. And that there be NO exemption for pilot program initial growers. In one neighborhood, a CBD grower set up within 35 feet of a home with huge fans that shake an entire neighborhood day and night, with a stench that sickens older people and children. This is NOT acceptable.

Please ensure ALL growers have a minimum of 500 feet from any existing home that was in existence before the liscensing, INCLUDING the Pilot program people. If they placed a grow so close to housing, it is simply unacceptable.

Sean Lester

Kihei, Hawaii

**HB-1270**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 1:32:50 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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.