
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEMP.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is important to
2 establish a task force to bring together hemp industry
3 stakeholders, the department of agriculture, and the department
4 of health to identify strategies and actions to best support and
5 grow the Hawaii hemp industry. Through data development and
6 information exchange, the task force can help to shape hemp
7 policy and programming to support Hawaii agriculture, consumers,
8 and the public interest.

9 The legislature also finds that although hemp is a high-
10 value crop that has the potential to bring significant and
11 diverse revenues to Hawaii, the industry has been stymied
12 because of factors including limited market access and
13 overregulation of production and processing, which have driven
14 Hawaii hemp farmers out of business; made Hawaii hemp farmers
15 noncompetitive; and created challenges for hemp building,
16 housing, and biofuel projects. Hawaii is the only state in the
17 country that regulates hemp farming at the state level but has



1 also asked for regulation by the United States Department of
2 Agriculture.

3 The legislature further finds that the state department of
4 agriculture and department of health have worked to be
5 responsive to changing federal and state hemp regulations.
6 Creation of a task force will provide a forum for regular
7 interactions among the Hawaii hemp industry and experts to help
8 to identify data that will facilitate the implementation of
9 policy and save agency time and resources.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to convene a Hawaii
11 hemp industry task force in the department of agriculture to
12 gather data and information to aid in the understanding of hemp
13 industry needs and recommend to the legislature strategies and
14 actions to support a vibrant hemp industry, agriculture, and
15 rural economic development.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Hawaii hemp
17 industry task force within the department of agriculture for
18 administrative purposes. The task force shall consist of the
19 following members:



- 1 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
2 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the
3 chairperson of the task force;
- 4 (2) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 5 (3) The chairperson of the house of representatives
6 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
7 agriculture;
- 8 (4) Seven members comprised of hemp farmers from each
9 island with existing hemp production, proportionate to
10 the total number of United States Department of
11 Agriculture hemp licenses in the State, who shall be
12 selected by the task force members identified in
13 paragraphs (1) to (3); and
- 14 (5) One member from each of the following five hemp
15 production sectors, all of whom shall be residents of
16 the State, who shall be selected by the task force
17 members identified in paragraphs (1) to (3):
- 18 (A) Fuel;
- 19 (B) Building;
- 20 (C) General fiber;
- 21 (D) Cannabinoid; and



- 1 (E) Grain food.
- 2 (b) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2024.
- 3 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
4 compensation.
- 5 (d) The task force shall:
- 6 (1) Gather data and information from sources, including
7 hemp economists, regulators in other states,
8 retailers, farmers, and hemp industry groups outside
9 of Hawaii;
- 10 (2) Develop an outline, not a study, of farmer and
11 industry needs and strategies and actions to inform
12 public policy regarding the creation of a vibrant hemp
13 industry in Hawaii that is supportive of local
14 agriculture; and
- 15 (3) Report to the legislature its findings and
16 recommendations based on input, information, and data
17 gathered.
- 18 (e) The department of agriculture shall provide any
19 necessary administrative support, including preparation of the
20 report required by subsection (f), to the task force.



1 (f) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the regular session of 2024.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



H.B. NO. 1270
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Hemp; Task Force; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health

Description:

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. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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