

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 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 657
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 657. This bill appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to identify a central area on Maui, then plan, design, and construct a hemp decorticator facility for the use of interested parties in the area. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports this measure provided it does not impact the priorities set in the Governor's executive biennium budget and requests the following changes.

The HDOA respectfully requests that the bill be amended to reflect planning funding only. Capital improvement funds typically don't become available until September of the appropriated fiscal year. Procurement of a consultant to perform the search takes approximately another three months. We anticipate the study itself will take six to nine months, followed by Chapter 343 requirements which can take another nine to twelve months if it's a simple environmental assessment. If it becomes an environmental impact statement, it will take at least a year to complete, more likely two years or more. It is our understanding that General Fund appropriations lapse on June 30 of the appropriated fiscal year. The timing involved does not allow the design phase, much less the construction phase to begin. The HDOA would be happy to request design and construction funds upon the completion of the planning phase.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 657
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 657, which appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to identify a central area on Maui, then plan, design, and construct a hemp decorticator facility for the use of interested parties in the area.

Industrial 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 building a processing facility for Hawai'i's hemp farmers to process hemp-derived products.

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



www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org

February 5, 2023

RE: Defer HB 657 SB 1132 with Amendments (Decorticator)

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

Thank you for your continued support of Hawaii Hemp farmers. It is true that the Hawaii hemp industry and hemp farmers are in great need of processing infrastructure and we applaud the forward thinking of this bill. The islands do need more than one decorticator. However, we hope this bill will be amended to include the following concerns and the suggested edits in **red font** on page two of this letter.

- Include the infrastructure needs of farmers on each of the islands: 44% of all hemp farmers are on Hawaii Island, 29% on Oahu, 23% on Maui, and 3% on Kauai. A smaller mobile decorticator, not a large, landed facility on one island, may make more sense for some islands.
- Ensure Hawaii hemp farmers and industry experts shall significantly inform the type and size of infrastructure to be selected, as well as location, and equitable use by farmers and clear definitions of ownership and storage. The Hawaii hemp farmers and industry members are in contact with processing experts around the U.S. and world, while the Department of Agriculture does not have this expertise in-house. Infrastructure equipment is evolving at a very quick pace. We support HB 1270 and SB 964, SB1589 that call for the Departments of Agriculture and Health to create a task force to identify farming and industry needs and strategies and policies that will support a vibrant hemp industry.
- Include the use of associated harvesting equipment and the post-decorticating baling and storage. Additionally, infrastructure for fiber and seed for food and fuel as well as small processing support for hemp CBD farmers is needed. We support a bill that recognizes or leaves the door open for these other processing needs to be addressed.

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

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hemp is among the
2 fastest growing plants on earth and can be refined into a
3 variety of useful items such as paper, rope, textiles, clothing,
4 biodegradable plastics, paint, building insulation, biofuel, and
5 animal feed. Hemp-derived products are so wide-ranging that the
6 creation of a decorticator processing facility and its
7 consequent production and sales of hemp-derived materials have
8 the potential to boost economic growth and create jobs in the
9 State.

is

10 The legislature further finds that there are potentially
11 numerous acreages ~~xx designated~~ for hemp production on ~~Maui~~, and
12 that the lack of access to a ~~decorticator facility~~ hinders the
13 ability of growers and producers to engage in large scale
14 processing of hemp plants. Thus, ~~a decorticator on Maui~~,
15 established by the department of agriculture, can provide for
16 meaningful growth of the hemp industry and related jobs in the
17 State.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the unusable parts
2 of processed hemp can be used to support organic composting in
3 Infrastructure could
4 the State. A ~~decorticator~~ can also be used by the ~~Maui~~ invasive
5 species committees and the department of land and natural
6 resources to properly process and dispose of invasive plant
7 species to disrupt a potential route of contamination back into
8 the land while also freeing up landfill space.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
10 funds to the department of agriculture to identify land for a
11 centrally accessible decorticator facility on Maui and to plan,
12 design, and construct such a facility for use by all eligible
13 and interested parties in these areas.

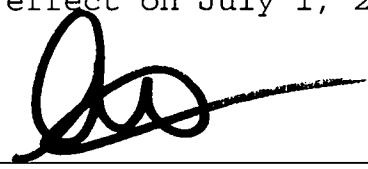
14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 50,000 or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 ~~and~~ for the Dept
17 ~~the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal~~
18 ~~year 2024-2025 for department of agriculture to identify a~~
19 ~~centrally accessible area of Maui and plan, design, and~~
20 ~~construct a hemp decorticator facility for private and public~~
 The consultant shall submit their findings via a concise outline of recommended infrastructure by island
 with the process of hemp and related plants into exportable products.
 no later than the first day of July, 2024. The outline shall include schematics showing the various
 processing steps and infrastructure needed from harvest to product for various sectors with approximate
 costs per infrastructure component, sizing and capacity options (mobile vs fixed and volume/mass per
 day), and approximate square footage required per component.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

4

INTRODUCED BY: 



Report Title:

Decorticator Facility; Maui, Hemp; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to identify a central area on Maui, then plan, design, and construct a hemp decorticator facility for the use of interested parties in the area. Appropriate the funds for the Department of Agriculture to hire a consultant to identify the infrastructure needs of Hawaii's hemp farmers and the hemp industry, working closely with Hawaii hemp farmers and the hemp industry.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

