



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 11, 2016 at 9:00 am

By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Maria Gallo, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1717 – RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1717, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot project to allow people to grow industrial hemp for animal feed.

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports economic development of the agricultural sector, including research and development efforts with new crops and cropping systems in order to strengthen and diversify agriculture in the State of Hawai'i. As authorized by the Hawai'i State Legislature, and by the federal Farm Bill, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, recently completed a pilot study of industrial hemp cultivation in Hawai'i, and demonstrated that certain strains of industrial hemp can grow quickly under Hawai'i conditions.

HB 1717 builds upon this pilot study to allow industrial hemp research and cultivation by other parties throughout the state to investigate its possible potential for animal feed, under license and direction by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture on the fiscal and management implications of HB 1717, we support the intent of the bill to develop new crops and new sources of animal feed for Hawai'i.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 11, 2016 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 1717, Relating to Industrial Hemp

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment company that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity, and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports HB 1717, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot project to allow people to grow industrial hemp for animal feed, because it aligns with our goal of providing more locally produced food. Feed costs for livestock production in Hawai'i can comprise 70 percent of production cost, and our concern is that we need to keep our livestock producers in business. We cannot afford to lose local food producers like ranchers, aquaculture farmers, and poultry farmers.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports: HB1717: Relating to Industrial Hemp

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

CFS has been dedicated to addressing the human health and environmental impacts of our increased reliance on pesticide use in food production, both in the State of Hawai'i and nationally. We were instrumental in providing legal and communications support in the passage of numerous ordinances relating to pesticide use and disclosure, such as Kaua'i's Bill 2491. Since 2014, as the inaugural director here in Hawai'i, I have worked closely with community members across the state, in all counties, and have played an instrumental role in the passage of Maui's moratorium on GE production until companies submit environmental and public health impact assessments.

I am also a former adjunct professor of Political Science at UH Mānoa and UH West O'ahu, where I have taught classes on food, agriculture, and policy from 2006-2014.

I am writing in support of HB1717, which requires the DOA to establish a pilot project to allow people to grow industrial hemp for animal feed.

Industrial hemp can be efficiently processed into protein-filled animal feed, as well as, nutritional seeds and oils, clothing, paper, and even biodiesel. Many may have concerns about the misuse of hemp as marijuana, but hemp is not marijuana. This bill states that the term "industrial hemp" means the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of that plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight basis. In fact, over twenty counties including Canada, France, and Germany cultivate and process hemp. Industrial hemp is an extremely versatile crop and can be used in Hawai'i to improve our food security and cause an immediate spike in local jobs.

Industrial hemp has the potential to create high outputs while using minimal or no pesticides. Replacing the pesticide-intensive industries like sugar with hemp could reduce the amount of pesticides in our air, soils, and ultimately our citizens. Using organic industrial hemp as an

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animal feed would improve our livestock quality and provide more opportunities for organic agriculture.

Additionally, creating local animal feed for our farms would create a safer food system. Hawai'i imports the vast majority of our food and products, and the birth of a local industrial hemp industry would improve local food supply and jobs.

As of 2014, industrial hemp research on remediation and biofuel crop research was legalized for The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Although no information has been released on CTAHR's research, HB1717 will allow an additional pilot program to test industrial hemp as an animal feed product.

With the demise of the sugar plantation era in Hawai'i, we have an opportunity to start again in the drive to a local and sustainable food system. Industrial hemp is just one step on the path to a healthy and safe future for Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony, and I am happy to provide further analysis or respond to any follow-up questions from the Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Lukens', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ashley Lukens, PhD
Hawai'i Director
Center for Food Safety

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:04 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ihemphi@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1717 With the passing of this bill in the House, Industrial Hemp will help support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community. We need to keep our ranchers, aquaculture, and poultry farmers- in business while reducing our dependency on import

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:43 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bgreenleaf.maui@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Greenleaf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a farmer, I strongly support HB 1717. Industrial Hemp is a valuable product. In Canada 50K Acres equals \$4Billion dollar industry. Kentucky and Virginia have approved growing Hemp. There is no downside to this plant...it will not get anyone high and in fact cross pollination with medical hemp ruins the medical varietals. Please approve to help Hawaii Farmers

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ktk@biodiesel.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly King	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the legalization of hemp cultivation in Hawaii. There is economic and environmental opportunity for our state, but we need to act now to realize the best potential for branding Hawaiian hemp!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Alana.Ross@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
AlanaRoss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tulsi@mauiishome.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. Thank you

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:54 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: irish7413@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1717 With the passing of this bill in the House, Industrial Hemp will help support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community. We need to keep our ranchers, aquaculture, and poultry farmers- in business while reducing our dependency on import. We have the opportunity to show the world how to be sustainable and self sufficient. Hemp is not marijuana!
Respectfully yours, Amber

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: davidsher@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii has an opportunity to be on the forefront of this wonderful industry, but only if the State Legislature acts. Please support this bill which will be a win:win for Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support this bill! Mahalo,

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:40 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 11, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1717
RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1717 that requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a two-year industrial hemp animal feed research pilot program for purposes of having up to twenty selected persons grow hemp to be used as animal feed. The Department may establish rules without regard of Chapter 91; and is responsible for testing and monitoring the plants growing on each test site. All actions taken are to be in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws. There is no appropriation to establish the pilot program. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided that it does not impact the priorities established in the Department's executive budget and offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture supports all of Hawaii's agriculture industry. Where there has been an "ask" from a segment of Hawaii's agricultural community to move forward with industrial hemp as a potential crop, the Department will move forward in support of that effort and the intent of this bill. Because industrial hemp is still illegal by Federal law, there will be limitations on how much and the type of work that the Department can support in working with industrial hemp.



The Department of Agriculture supports the development of locally-produced livestock feed and seeks to reduce the cost of production for the State's livestock and aquaculture industries by reducing the cost of feed. The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources report on industrial hemp remediation and biofuel crop research (Act 56, SLH 2014, December 2015) reports that the seeds and leaves could be used as feed materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pulelehua23@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1717 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1717

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 11, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1717
RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 1717, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot project to allow people to grow industrial hemp for animal feed.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 3 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and another dairy are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs, primarily the cost of feed.

HB 1717 may help to keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, lamb, fish and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.