

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO- GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 2, 2021

9:30 AM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1027 SD1
RELATING TO HEMP

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1027 SD1 which allows the existing industrial hemp special fund to be utilized for the department's current hemp regulatory responsibilities. Act 14 SLH 2020 ended the Hawaii Industrial Hemp Pilot Program, transferred licensing of hemp growers in Hawaii to the United State Departments of Agriculture, and assigned the department new regulatory duties regarding hemp: regulation of the transport of harvested hemp materials within, into, and out of the state, and enforcement of the buffer zone requirements of Act 14 SLH 2020. As of December 2020, there were 55 licensed hemp growers in the state and counting, with no limit on the amount of licensees or acreage. The department was not given any resources to execute its new duties, and thus the department strongly supports this measure, which would allow funds collected for the purpose of hemp to be used for the department's current hemp duties as necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

