

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 637
RELATING TO HEMP**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 637. This measure amends hemp processing rules to allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in agricultural structures and buildings that are permit-exempt under section 46-48, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as well as food hubs and agricultural parks, as was previously allowed prior to 2021. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) offers comments.

DOA supports the Hawaii hemp industry but respectfully does not agree with the statement regarding "overregulation of production" on page 2, line 3. 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 Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) regulates hemp products and processing of hemp within the state. DOA defers to comments of DOH regarding rule amendment to allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in agricultural structures and buildings.

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0637
RELATING TO HEMP**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 2/27/2023

Room Number: CR 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may 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 offers testimony in **opposition** to SB0637, which
5 seeks to amend Chapter 328G, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), allowing hemp processors to
6 process hemp products in an enclosed, indoor facility that is permit-exempt under Section 46-88,
7 HRS, or in an enclosed facility in a food hub or agricultural park.

8 The Department finds this bill unnecessary as Chapter 328G-2, HRS, does not prohibit
9 hemp processors from processing hemp plant material into allowable hemp products in an
10 enclosed, indoor facility that is permit-exempt under Section 46-88, HRS, nor in an enclosed,
11 indoor facility that is a food hub or located in an agricultural park. The Department has not
12 denied or removed any hemp processor from the hemp processor registry for processing
13 allowable hemp products in an enclosed, indoor facility that is permit-exempt under Section 46-
14 88, HRS, or in an enclosed facility in a food hub or agricultural park.

15 The Department is concerned that proposed amendments will be interpreted that any
16 building exempt under Section 46-88, HRS, is inherently suitable and designed with supporting
17 electrical, plumbing, and storage to ensure the safety of the public, environment, and product
18 when engaged in any and all types of processing methods, including but not limited to the use of
19 volatile organic compounds, ethanol, and carbon dioxide, often under pressure and heat. The

1 existing requirement that the hemp processor application includes documentation that the indoor
2 facility **and the planned hemp processing operation** comply with relevant state and county
3 ordinances, including fire codes, are important safeguards that must be maintained and not
4 weakened by potentially allowing buildings and structures that are not suitable for such
5 activities.

6 The Department does not contribute to the nascent stage (page 1, line 11) of the hemp
7 industry since it does not register or regulate hemp processors who process industrial hemp
8 products, such as feedstock or biofuel. The Department regulates hemp processors who process
9 allowable hemp products intended to be consumed orally or supplement the human or animal
10 diet, in the form of a tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, topical application to the skin or hair, or
11 liquid form formulated in a fluid carrier and intended for ingestion in daily quantities measured
12 in drops or similar small units of measure per labeled direction for use.

13 The Department does not agree that hemp processors are overregulated (page 1, line
14 11, and page 2, line 3) by Chapter 328G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-37
15 Hawaii Administrative Rules. These are the only regulations that allow hemp processors to
16 legally process hemp into hemp products that are compliant with contaminant testing and
17 safe for consumer consumption.

18 On August 29, 2021, the Department set forth Chapter 11-37 (Interim Rules) “Hemp
19 Processing and Hemp Products”, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), which provided the
20 requirements of hemp processing and the sale of hemp products to protect the health and safety
21 of the general public. Prior to this date, there were no legal means for hemp farmers to process
22 and manufacture hemp products for sale in any edible form.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** and the Department respectfully
24 requests to defer this bill.

25

26

27 **Offered Amendments:** None

28

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 1:11:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harriet Witt	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our hemp farmers need this bill to be competitive. We need the hemp farmers if we want to rejuvenate our soil and rejuvenate our ag industry. Please support this bill. Mahalo!



February 25, 2023

RE: SUPPORT SB 637 Hemp Processing *with* Amendment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Thank you for your continued support of Hawaii Hemp farmers. The Hawaii Hemp Farmers Association, which is composed of Hawaii hemp farmers, processors, and manufacturers, is in strong support of SB 637 with the following amendment in bold:

4) Documentation that the indoor facility and planned hemp processing operation complies with all zoning ordinances, building codes, and fire codes; **or for processing that does not include heat or volatile compounds or gases under pressure, such as cold water extraction, is an enclosed indoor facility that meets the state definition for agricultural buildings and structures, per HRS 46-88, Agricultural buildings and structures; or is in an enclosed indoor facility in a food hub or agricultural park.**

SB 637 with the amendment is needed because current rules,

1.) Are not flexible enough to allow hemp processing in HRS 46-88 ag buildings where there are no safety issues. These safe processes include extractions with ice water or coconut oil using a hand screw press and don't use chemicals or heat or compressed gases. If an agricultural building is exempt per HRS 46-88, it is not permitted and therefore there is no way to prove that the building meets building codes other than going through the expensive process that would require permitting - secure architectural and engineering stamped plans, which defeats the purpose of HRS 46-88, which in part, is to make agriculture feasible for farmers. Some hemp processing methods are as safe as washing cucumbers, therefore, should be fully exempt per HRS 46-88. We agree with the Department of Health that for processes that include heat, volatile compounds, or compressed gases, documentation of compliance with codes is important.

2.) Exclude farmers from accessing almost all food hubs and some ag parks because of 500-foot buffer requirement for hemp processing. Most food hubs are within 500 feet of

other structures, some of which are rural residences. Given current hemp rules and regulations, it is impossible for hemp farmers to use the cold and frozen storage facilities at food hubs and ag parks or to use their facilities to set up small batch processing. Therefore, allowance for farmers to process in food hubs and agricultural parks is needed. Food hubs often have the capacity to apply for funding for infrastructure that serves numerous farmers. Without this allowance for hemp processing at food hubs and ag parks, hemp farmers continue to be singled out and forbidden from accessing opportunities allowed for every other farmer in the state.

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

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 9:06:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Winslow	Testifying for Maui Farmers Union	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hemp Farming in the Hawaiian Islands in Agricultural Buildings as other farmers use agricultural structures/greenhouse environments to grow flowers and fruits/veggies without any restrictions.

Prior to 2021, when hemp processing rules were adopted, Hawaii licensed hemp producers processed small batches of hemp on their farms in agricultural buildings and structures with no adverse consequences. These types of buildings and structures are regularly used to store and process other crops with no restrictions. But hemp processing rules adopted in 2021 unintentionally eliminated farmers right to process hemp on their farms in state-defined agricultural buildings that are exempt from building permits and code requirements where the buildings and structures are not more than one thousand square feet in floor area, e.g., properly anchored shipping containers, one-story masonry or wood-framed buildings or structures with a structural span of less than twenty-five feet, etc. Most farmers can't afford to ship their hemp to be processed and shipping increases costs, while potentially diminishing the quality of the hemp.

SB 637 also allows farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks. Amending hemp processing rules to allow farmers to process in agricultural buildings and structures, food hubs and agricultural parks, like most other crops, is needed for farmers to survive in a competitive national hemp market.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:00:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeb Jones	Testifying for Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 637– Relating to Hemp

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Committee Members:

I present this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB637, which seeks to reverse a 2021 Legislative decision by allowing: 1) farmers to once again process hemp in agricultural structures meeting the state definition of these structure pursuant to Section 46-88 Hawai`i Revised Statutes AND 2) allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks.

The 2021 hemp processing rules unintentionally have eliminated a farmer’s right to process hemp on their farms in state-defined agricultural structures exempt from permits and code requirements where the structures’ footprint measures no more than 1,000 square feet. Before 2021, however, Hawai`i-licensed hemp growers were processing small batches of hemp without penalties in these state-defined agricultural structures. Hawai`i farmers operate on such thin margins that even hemp farmers cannot afford to ship their hemp for processing due to astronomical shipping costs and without the sacrificing the quality of the hemp grown.

By adopting this revised proposed SB637 language, farmers will also be able to process hemp in food hubs AND agricultural parks. So, by amending the 2021 Hemp Processing Rules, your committee will allow farmers to survive in a competitive national hemp market.

For all of the above reasons, we urge your Committee to please pass SB637.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 637.

Zeb Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC

PO Box 1472/ Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: zebbe3442@gmail.com



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 27, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 637
RELATING TO HEMP

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 SB 637, which amends hemp processing rules to allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in agricultural structures and buildings that are permit-exempt under section 46-48, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as well as food hubs and agricultural parks, as was previously allowed prior to 2021.

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.

CARES

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY RESEARCH EDUCATION SERVICES

SB 637

Hemp

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs & the Committee of AEN

to

CARES is providing comments for SB 637.

the SENATE
committees
on AEN &
JDC.

The Hawaii
State
Legislature

from

Zhizi Xiong
(Angela
Melody
Young)

Creator

Marijuana is an illegal Scheduled I substance on the Federal Controlled Substance Act as declared by the DEA, the Federal Dept of Health & Human Services & the AG.

Schedule 1 is the most dangerous drugs such as MDMA, marijuana & magic mushrooms. The reason is because these drugs have the highest potential of abuse and no known medical value as declared by the federal government. Hawaii's Uniform Controlled Substance Act in HRS 329 reflects the Federal act with some exemptions.

Because of the State exemptions, marijuana is legal for medical use. Although at the federal level, it is illegal for medical and recreational use unless the medical use is approved by the DEA.

Hemp & marijuana are the same plant. While science does not distinguish the two, law does. Hemp is a marijuana plant but hemp has less THC. Legally, the difference is the Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. THC is one of the many chemicals of marijuana. THC is responsible for the "high". The term "hemp" is used to classify marijuana that contains 0.3% or less THC. In law, hemp is defined as an part of the cannabis sativa plant with no more than 0.3% of THC. The marijuana that we typically think of that gets people high has 15-20% THC.

But why did the USDA set the dividing line at 0.3 percent? Why not 0.5 percent or 1 percent? Dr. Ernest Small, a research botanist, studied and wrote about it in the 1970s. In 1976, Small & his colleague published "A Practical and Natural Taxonomy for Cannabis" which set a dividing line between hemp & marijuana at 0.3% THC for the purpose of biological taxonomy. Taxonomy is the branch of science concerned with

CARES

classification. Dr. Small's approach is not the only one. Cannabis had been subjected to different taxonomical treatments by others. The proper taxonomical treatment of cannabis is still debated. The European Union's standards is 0.2% THC or less is deemed hemp. US codified the 0.3% in the 2018 Farm Bill. This was done despite a 2016 article Small published which described the 0.3% THC as an "arbitrary number".

For example, Act 42 from last year amended the definition of drugs in HRS 291E-61(a)(2). The research for the Act said " the process of placing a drug or substance on the schedule of controlled substances does not respond quickly enough to emerging drugs. Synthetic drugs can be manufactured very rapidly and can avoid law enforcement when they are created by changing the chemical composition of an existing drug; in this manner, synthetic drugs like "spice" and "bath salts" evade the scheduling process.

CARES would like to reasonably conclude that for the reasons stated above, CARES would like to urge the legislature to be very weary of "hemp". It is derived from Cannabis which is a highly illegal Schedule I substance. By loosening the cannabis laws, there can be devastating consequences.

Blessings,



ANGELA MELODY YOUNG

CARES

CANNABIS HAS OVER **100+**
CANNABINOIDS
two commonly known ones are:

CBD
NON-PSYCHOACTIVE

THC
PSYCHOACTIVE
(GETS YOU "HIGH")

HEMP

contains
**0.3%
THC**
(OR LESS)

MARIJUANA

contains
**15-20%
THC**
(TYPICALLY)

THC AMOUNT

(<https://harrisbricken.com/cannalawblog/the-hemp-standard-is-0-3-thc-that-should-be-changed/>)



CARES

Works cited

1. "CBD: What You Need to Know." Wwww.cdc.gov, 8 Aug. 2022,
www.cdc.gov/marijuana/featured-topics/CBD.html.
2. "The Hemp Standard Is 0.3% THC. That Should Be Changed." Harris Bricken
Sliwoski LLP, harrisbricken.com/cannalawblog/the-hemp-standard-is-0-3-thc-
that-should-be-changed/.
3. Capitol, Hawaii.
Https://Www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Sessions/Session2022/Bills/GM1142_.PDF.



SB-637

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:43:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LIBRADO COBIAN	Testifying for AAC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support exploring the industrial uses of HEMP . In Europe HEMP fibers are used for race car shells and it is as strong as fiberglass and less toxic to manufacture. Li Cobian



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

AEN_03-02-23 Deferred Submitted 2/27/23 Again

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB637 RELATING TO HEMP

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, III and the Members of the Committee

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii vehemently supports this bill and encourages you to vote for it.

It is about time that the value of industrial grade HEMP is acknowledged and separated from the drug producing version of this plant. In a STATE which is looking for safe and clean ways to diversify our agriculture and exports, hemp has particular value.

It is an incredibly versatile plant, and can be used as animal fodder and for environmentally friendly fabrics which would be a big bonus to the local fashion industry. It can also be used for food, oil for medicinal uses and fuel options, building material ("green" cement), and a form of safe environmentally friendly plastic just to name a few things.

In these islands it grows easily so it is time to remove the stigma attached to the name of the plant and move forward to create a new and productive agricultural crop for the future.

Martha E Randolph
SCC Representative for the Environmental Caucus
Of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 4:58:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:54:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 637 and appreciate everyone working hard to make it much easier for Help farmers to process their crop.

Mahalo,

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 6:41:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 11:24:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Swift	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

SB 637 clarifies that licensed hemp farmers shall be allowed to once again process hemp in agricultural structures and buildings that meet the state definitions for these structures and buildings pursuant to section 46-88, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks.

Prior to 2021, when hemp processing rules were adopted, Hawaii licensed hemp producers processed small batches of hemp on their farms in agricultural buildings and structures with no adverse consequences. These types of buildings and structures are regularly used to store and process other crops with no restrictions. But hemp processing rules adopted in 2021 unintentionally eliminated farmers right to process hemp on their farms in state-defined agricultural buildings that are exempt from building permits and code requirements where the buildings and structures are not more than one thousand square feet in floor area, e.g., properly anchored shipping containers, one-story masonry or wood-framed buildings or structures with a structural span of less than twenty-five feet, etc. Most farmers can't afford to ship their hemp to be processed and shipping increases costs, while potentially diminishing the quality of the hemp.

SB 637 also allows farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks. Amending hemp processing rules to allow farmers to process in agricultural buildings and structures, food hubs and agricultural parks, like most other crops, is needed for farmers to survive in a competitive national hemp market.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 11:35:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Cenzano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the processing of hemp as this bill outlines.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 11:48:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 11:48:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes..... Yes.... Yes.... Please support. If you don't believe in HEMP, please educate yourselves on this amazing plant. <https://www.britannica.com/plant/hemp>

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 1:17:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

SB 637 clarifies that licensed hemp farmers shall be allowed to once again process hemp in agricultural structures and buildings that meet the state definitions for these structures and buildings pursuant to section 46-88, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks.

Prior to 2021, when hemp processing rules were adopted, Hawaii licensed hemp producers processed small batches of hemp on their farms in agricultural buildings and structures with no adverse consequences. These types of buildings and structures are regularly used to store and process other crops with no restrictions. But hemp processing rules adopted in 2021 unintentionally eliminated farmers right to process hemp on their farms in state-defined agricultural buildings that are exempt from building permits and code requirements where the buildings and structures are not more than one thousand square feet in floor area, e.g., properly anchored shipping containers, one-story masonry or wood-framed buildings or structures with a structural span of less than twenty-five feet, etc. Most farmers can't afford to ship their hemp to be processed and shipping increases costs, while potentially diminishing the quality of the hemp.

SB 637 also allows farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks. Amending hemp processing rules to allow farmers to process in agricultural buildings and structures, food hubs and agricultural parks, like most other crops, is needed for farmers to survive in a competitive national hemp.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 1:18:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill to support the hemp industry.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 2:49:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshito L'Hote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill Hemp needs to finds its place in Hawaii Ag supporting every means to make it financially viable .

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 4:06:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of this bill to facilitate a hemp industry in Hawaii

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 4:52:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill. DFL

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 6:28:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randie Mead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Historically, Hawaii licensed hemp producers processed small batches of hemp on their farms in agricultural buildings and structures with no adverse consequences. These types of buildings and structures are regularly used to store and process other crops with no restrictions. But hemp processing rules adopted in 2021 unintentionally eliminated farmers right to process hemp on their farms in state-defined agricultural buildings that are exempt from building permits and code requirements where the buildings and structures are not more than one thousand square feet in floor area, e.g., properly anchored shipping containers, one-story masonry or wood-framed buildings or structures with a structural span of less than twenty-five feet, etc. Most farmers can't afford to ship their hemp to be processed and shipping increases costs, while potentially diminishing the quality of the hemp. These practices can only help the Hawaiian economy and the world. I testify to allow unrestricted growing and processing of hemp and cannabis.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 11:10:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators Gabbard, Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

I SUPPORT this bill that reinstates licensed hemp farmers with the ability to process hemp in agricultural structures and buildings that meet the state definitions for these structures and buildings pursuant to section 46-88, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks. This was done prior to 2021 without any ill effects.

Most farmers can't afford to ship their hemp to be processed and shipping increases costs, while potentially diminishing the quality of the hemp. SB 637 also allows farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks. Amending hemp processing rules to allow farmers to process in agricultural buildings and structures, food hubs and agricultural parks, like most other crops, is needed for farmers to survive in a competitive national hemp market.

Thank you for considering my request.

Susan Mulkern

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 4:18:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariel Douvris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need more sustainable and regenerative agriculture in Hawaii. Hemp is an excellent companion crop, phytoremediator and can be processed for many products. We need hemp farms in Hawaii. Thank you.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 7:44:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David B. Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB637 as hemp cultivation has the potential to be one of the few economically viable crops for Hawaii and contribute to the future of Hawaii's economy.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 7:54:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 637– Relating to Hemp

Aloha Senators Gabbard, Richards and Committee Members:

I present this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB637, which would reverse a 2021 Legislative decision by allowing: 1) farmers to once again process hemp in agricultural structures meeting the state definition of these structure pursuant to Section 46-88 Hawai`i Revised Statutes AND 2) allow licensed hemp farmers to process hemp in food hubs and agricultural parks.

The hemp processing rules adopted in 2021 unintentionally have eliminated farmers’ right to process hemp on their farms in state-defined agricultural structures exempt from permits and code requirements where the structures’ footprint measures no more than 1,000 square feet. Before 2021, however, Hawai`i-licensed hemp growers were processing small batches of hemp without penalties in these state-defined agricultural structures. Hawai`i farmers operate on such thin margins that even hemp farmers cannot afford to ship their hemp for processing due to astronomical shipping costs and without the sacrificing the quality of the hemp grown.

As written, SB637 will also allow farms to process hemp in food hubs AND agricultural parks. So, by amending the 2021 Hemp Processing Rules, your committee will allow farmers to survive in a competitive national hemp market.

For all of the above reasons, we urge your Committee to please pass SB637.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB 637.

Nancy A. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 12:40:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Fine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting SB637 It is important that hemp farmers, like all farmers, enjoy as many professional processign options as possible.

SB-637

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 2:34:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/27/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Erickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today in support of SB637. As a horticulturist living and working on Maui, I am excited that hawaii is finally supporting and encouraging the growing of hemp. This is such a beneficial plant to humans and the planet and i am in full support of making it easier for farmers to process their crop on their farms. This is an industry Maui and all of Hawaii should be in support of for its potential to regenerate damaged soils and give farmers an easy and beneficial crop to grow. This plant can and will change the world. Maui sugar cane and pinneapple industry raped the lands and poluted our waters. The time for change is now. Lets help support the farmers who are trying to do what is pono for our species and planet.

Sincerest Mahalo,

Elizabeth Erickson