

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 SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023
1:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 655
RELATING TO HEMP**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 655. This measure gives authority to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal law, with regard to exemptions for fiber, fuel, and seed grain hemp crops. DOA supports this bill and offers comments.

Under sections 141-42 and 141-43, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the DOA is tasked with monitoring the transportation of hemp within the State, enforcing restrictions regarding the growth of hemp within the State, and adopting rules pursuant to chapter 91. In addition to aligning state hemp rules with federal law to exempt fiber, fuel, and seed grain crops, DOA respectfully requests deleting the language on page 5 lines 3 to 7 of this bill pertaining to nuisance issues. DOA does not find it necessary or appropriate to create additional rules to address nuisance issues, including smell, noise, and excessive lighting arising out of the activities of hemp growers. Pre-existing



regulations and authority under the Department of Health and county land use ordinances already address (and are the appropriate method of addressing) the areas of nuisance referenced. DOA has serious concerns regarding the creation of a duplicative enforcement framework that may result in confusion and challenge due to incompatible oversight and conflicting actions and decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org

February 12, 2023

RE: SUPPORT SB 655 Exemption for Hemp Fiber, Fuel, and Food Grain Crops

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

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 655.

Hawaii's hemp industry has been stymied for a several reasons. There are numerous projects in the state exploring ways to make building materials from hemp and using hemp in affordable housing, but most of these projects import hemp due to the regulatory barriers to growing hemp in Hawaii that make farming hemp in Hawaii very expensive.

The U.S. Congress will be amending federal hemp cultivation laws in the near future to allow for exemptions for hemp crops that are grown for fiber, fuel, or grain for food.

The federal exemptions may include relief from testing and transportation requirements. SB 655 authorizes the Department of Agriculture to amend Hawaii state rules to align with federal laws as soon as exemptions for hemp fiber, fuel, and food grain are passed by Congress. **This ensures Hawaii farmers and the Hawaii hemp industry can benefit ASAP from the exemption instead of waiting 1.5 to 2 years for legislation and then rules to be developed. SB 655 ensure Hawaii farmers can remain competitive and provide hemp for in-state hemp projects.**

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 655

Exemption for Fuel, Fiber, Food Hemp Crops



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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON SB 655
RELATING TO HEMP

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

Aloha Chairs 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 655, which gives authority to the Department of Agriculture to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal law, with regard to exemptions for fiber, fuel, and seed grain hemp crops.

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 aligning with federal exemptions for fiber, fuel, and grain from rules regarding testing. Hemp varieties for these functions typically have zero or very low THC and these onerous hemp rules are blocking the development of a fiber and fuel hemp sector in Hawai'i

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

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:11:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshito L'Hote	Testifying for Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have to keep up with the federal policies as they reflect the need to compete world wide and to allow this industry to grow.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:14:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:46:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please give authority to the Department of Agriculture to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal law, with regard to exemptions for fiber, fuel, and seed grain hemp crops from onerous and costly inspections and testing.

Overregulation hinders the growth of the hemp industry, which otherwise could foster sustainable resources and food security in Hawaii, particularly with regard to the fiber, fuel and seed grain sectors.

Hemp seeds are high in essential fatty acids, as well as vitamins E, B1, B2, B6, and D, calcium, magnesium, and potassium and contain more digestible proteins than meat, eggs, cheese, and milk, which is expected to drive their demand as a food. Hemp has been used as a biofuel for decades and has been proven to be a soil remediator.

There are numerous projects in the State exploring ways to make building materials from hemp and using hemp in affordable housing, but most of these projects import hemp due to the regulatory barriers to growing hemp in Hawaii that make farming hemp in Hawaii very expensive.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:51:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Strong Support for SB 655

Mahalo,

JN Makawao

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:07:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Huth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 655 to allow the Department of Agriculture to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal law, with regard to exemptions for fiber, fuel, and seed grain hemp crop.

Hawaii could become self-sustainable in hemp production and this would provide many benefits to the workforce and the environment. This is an important agricultural product that our state government needs to encourage and support.

Thank you for your strong support of this bill.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:09:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Koch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to reduce the overregulation of hemp in HI.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:06:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chet Gardiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB655.

It is vitally important that every effort be made to improve Hawai'i's agriculture and food security at the grass roots level. In the not too distant future, the People of Hawai'i will be more dependent upon what we can grow, make and distribute on the Islands.

An important crop in the mix is hemp.

Hawai'i's farmers and consumers will benefit by removing onerous and unnecessary additional state regulation and harmonizing with more rational Federal regulations.

I urge passage of SB655.

Thank you.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:57:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail P. Gnazzo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Please pass . Hawaii needs to develop more diversified crops of healthful, economically important benefit to people & farmers. Please remove impediments to competitive agriculture. This is one step towards improving viable agriculture, food independence & sustainability.

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:06:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill, SB655

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:22:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

In Strong Support as a disabled farmer we need the state laws to match the USDA rules the State says it follows instead of duplicated disfunctional system.

Mahalo

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:25:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Lester	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

NO VOTE OR SB 655

Aloha Committee Chair and members.

It is imperative that CBD NOT be grown within 500 feet of anyone's existing home. And that there be NO exemption for pilot program initial growers. In one neighborhood, a CBD grower set up within 35 feet of a home with huge fans that shake an entire neighborhood day and night, with a stench that sickens older people and children. This is NOT acceptable.

Please ensure ALL growers have a minimum of 500 feet from any existing home that was in existence before the licensing, INCLUDING the Pilot program people. If they placed a grow so close to housing, it is simply unacceptable.

Giving over the power of the state to the Federal standards is a giving up of states' rights. I am against giving up Hawaii's ability to govern its own unique needs to the federal government. Too much of our history has been of the US dictating our lives, including the Jones Act. Please DO NOT give up our rights regarding our local rules.

Sean Lester

Kihei, Hawaii

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:29:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisabeth Bluml	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee chair and members,

I am in strong OPPOSITION.!

As I have been working with my neighbors for over 2 1/2 years to get a simple boundary of a 1000 foot buffer between a hemp grower and neighboring homes, churches, schools, etc, which in itself has been very difficult; why would we give the power to Federal legislation, which is not addressing our local needs. Whatever else you are doing, insure that there is a 1000 foot buffer.

And please there should be no exemption for "grandfathered in" growers.

Mahalo for your time,

Elisabeth Bluml

Khandro Farm, Kula

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:34:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

i strongly support sb655

SB-655

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:36:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators Gabbard, Richards and Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 655. The Department of Agriculture should indeed have the authority and opportunity to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal law as hemp has a multitude of uses relative to fibers, fuel and as a grain for consumption -- all of which can benefit Hawai`i's economy. For this reason, I encourage you to please also SUPPORT SB 655 and pass this out of your committee.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB 655.

Nancy A. Jones

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