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Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023**  
**2:20 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 312 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 976**  
**RELATING TO HEMP SPECIAL FUND**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 976. This measure amends section 141-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to rename the Industrial Hemp Special Fund as the Hemp Special Fund and allow the fund to be utilized for the Department of Agriculture's responsibilities regarding hemp under part III of chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) strongly supports this bill.

Act 14, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, as amended by Act 137, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, repealed the DOA industrial hemp pilot program and replaced it with distinct duties for both the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture to regulate hemp in the State.

A registry for hemp processors was created within the Department of Health, and the Hawaii hemp processing special fund was established to fund the administration of the registry. The DOA was tasked with monitoring the transportation of hemp within the State and enforcing restrictions for growing hemp that mitigates impact on neighboring communities. However, there is currently no special fund the DOA can use for those



purposes. Amending the name and purposes of the Industrial Hemp Special Fund will allow the DOA to use the existing special fund to perform its new regulatory duties relating to hemp.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.