
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEMP.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is important to
2 establish a task force to bring together hemp industry
3 stakeholders, the department of agriculture, and department of
4 health to identify strategies and actions to best support and
5 grow the Hawaii hemp industry. Through data development and
6 information exchange, the task force can help to shape hemp
7 policy and programming to support Hawaii agriculture, consumers,
8 and the public interest.

9 The legislature also finds that although hemp is a high-
10 value crop that has the potential to bring significant and
11 diverse revenues to Hawaii, the industry has been stymied
12 because of factors including limited market access and
13 overregulation of production and processing, which have driven
14 Hawaii hemp farmers out of business, made Hawaii hemp farmers
15 noncompetitive, and created challenges for hemp building,
16 housing, and biofuel projects. Hawaii is the only state in the
17 country that regulates hemp farming at the state level but has



1 also asked for regulation by the United States Department of
2 Agriculture.

3 The legislature further finds that the state department of
4 agriculture and department of health have worked to be
5 responsive to changing federal and state hemp regulations.
6 Creation of a task force will provide a forum for regular
7 interactions among the Hawaii hemp industry and experts to help
8 to identify data that will facilitate the implementation of
9 policy and save agency time and resources.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to convene a Hawaii
11 hemp industry task force in the department of agriculture to
12 gather data and information to aid in the understanding of hemp
13 industry needs and recommend to the legislature strategies and
14 actions to support a vibrant hemp industry, agriculture, and
15 rural economic development.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Hawaii hemp
17 industry task force within the department of agriculture for
18 administrative purposes. The task force shall consist of the
19 following members:



H.B. NO. 1270

- 1 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
2 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the
3 chairperson of the task force;
- 4 (2) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 5 (3) The chairperson of the house of representatives
6 standing committee on agriculture and food systems;
- 7 (4) Seven members comprised of hemp farmers from each
8 island with existing hemp production, proportionate to
9 the total number of United States Department of
10 Agriculture hemp licenses in the State, who shall be
11 selected by the task force members identified in
12 paragraphs (1) to (3); and
- 13 (4) One member from each of the following five hemp
14 production sectors, all of whom shall be residents of
15 the State, who shall be selected by the task force
16 members identified in paragraphs (1) to (3):
- 17 (A) Fuel;
- 18 (B) Building;
- 19 (C) General fiber;
- 20 (D) Cannabinoid; and
- 21 (E) Grain food.



- 1 (b) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2024.
- 2 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
3 compensation.
- 4 (d) The task force shall:
- 5 (1) Gather data and information from sources including
6 hemp economists, regulators in other states,
7 retailers, farmers, and hemp industry groups outside
8 of Hawaii;
- 9 (2) Develop an outline, not a study, of farmer and
10 industry needs and strategies and actions to inform
11 public policy regarding the creation of a vibrant hemp
12 industry in Hawaii that is supportive of local
13 agriculture; and
- 14 (3) Report to the legislature its findings and
15 recommendations based on input, information, and data
16 gathered.
- 17 (e) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
18 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the regular session of 2024.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



H.B. NO. 1270

1

INTRODUCED BY:

Carl Quint

JAN 24 2023



H.B. NO. 1270

Report Title:

Hemp; Task Force; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health

Description:

Establishes a task force to gather data and information and make recommendations to the legislature on strategies and actions to support a vibrant hemp industry, agriculture, and rural economic development.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

