

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HEMP TASK FORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds it necessary that a task
2 force be established to identify development strategies and
3 actions that will best support Hawaii's emergent hemp industry.
4 This task force will provide for the sharing and exchanging of
5 pertinent information amongst principal industry and government
6 actors, which will aim to optimize hemp policy and programming
7 to support Hawaii agriculture, hemp consumers, and the public
8 generally. This task force shall include hemp industry
9 stakeholders and representatives from the department of
10 agriculture and department of health.

11 The legislature also finds that, although hemp is a high-
12 value crop that has the potential to bring significant and
13 diverse revenues to Hawaii, the industry has been significantly
14 stymied in Hawaii due to several factors, including limitations
15 to Hawaii farmer's access to markets and overregulation of
16 farming, production and processing, which has often driven
17 Hawaii hemp farmers out of business, made farmers non-



1 competitive, and has also created challenges for hemp building
2 and housing and biofuel projects. Moreover, Hawaii is the only
3 state in the union where hemp production and farming is heavily
4 regulated at both the state and federal levels.

5 The legislature further finds that the department of
6 agriculture and department of health have worked to be
7 responsive to changing federal and state hemp regulations and
8 that a forum that provides an opportunity for regular interface
9 with a cross-section of the Hawaii hemp industry and experts can
10 help identify data that will make department of agriculture and
11 department of health administrative rule implementation easier,
12 potentially saving agency time and resources.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a hemp
14 industry task force to include members of the Hawaii hemp
15 industry and representatives from the department of agriculture
16 and the department of health to compile information from farmers
17 and industry experts inside and outside Hawaii as to how to best
18 build a hemp industry that supports rural agricultural
19 development in the State.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture and the
21 department of health shall jointly convene a Hawaii hemp task



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1 force to gather data and information to understand industry
2 needs and inform strategies and actions that support agriculture
3 and an emerging hemp industry in Hawaii. The task force:

4 (1) Shall include hemp producers and farmers from each
5 island proportionate to the total number of United
6 States Department of Agriculture hemp licenses in the
7 State and a representative from each of the fuel,
8 building, general fiber, cannabinoid, and grain food
9 sectors;

10 (2) May ask for data and information from additional
11 sources, including but not limited to hemp economists,
12 regulators in other states, retailers, farmers, and
13 hemp industry groups outside of Hawaii; and

14 (3) Shall develop an outline of farmer and industry needs
15 and the strategies and actions that can help inform
16 public policy concerning the development of a hemp
17 industry in Hawaii that also supports rural
18 agricultural development in the State.

19 (b) The initial meeting of the task force shall occur no
20 later than sixty days after the effective date of this Act,



1 during which the members shall elect a chair and any other
2 necessary officers from among the appointed members.

3 (c) Members of the task force shall receive no
4 compensation for their duties and shall not be subject to
5 section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely based on their
6 participation on the task force. The task force shall be exempt
7 from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
9 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
10 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the regular session of 2024.

12 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on August 30,
13 2024.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mike Gohman



S.B. NO. 964

Report Title:

Hemp Industry Task Force; Hemp Producers; Commercial Hemp Production; Rural Economic Development

Description:

Establishes a Hawaii Hemp Task Force to inform public policy and identify methods and actions to best support Hawaii agriculture and build a hemp industry to support rural economic development.

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