

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
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 516 SD1
RELATING TO HEMP

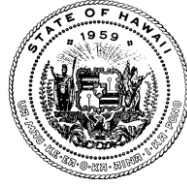
Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 516 SD1. This measure requires that the identity statement used for labeling or advertising hemp products identify the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this bill and offers comments.

DOA supports this measure but currently lacks the funding and budget allocation to execute its responsibilities and would require a one full time measurement standards inspector (approximate appropriation request of \$100,000) for the purpose of labeling and packaging enforcement and inspection. The inspector will help rebuild DOA's labeling enforcement capability that was lost during the RIF, and to address labeling enforcement challenges in various Hawaii products such as inspecting and verifying the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products. The inspector will take the lead in researching and utilizing new recognized testing measures to identify different products geographically such as Oritain technology (<https://oritain.com>), which can generate science-based data from specific growing



regions as a proof and confirmation of truth or false labeling. 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 COMMENTING on SB0516 SD1
RELATING TO HEMP**

REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Hearing Date: 3/17/2023

Room Number: CR 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will 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 appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony by
5 offering comments on SB0516 SD1, which requires a producer of a hemp product to include in
6 the identity statement of any hemp product, the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp in hemp
7 product, and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products.

8 The Department defers to the Department of Agriculture, which enforces a similar
9 Hawaii-Grown Coffee law, to oversee the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp of local hemp
10 products and the origin and percentage of hemp products not from Hawaii. The Department
11 respectfully requests to delete lines 11 to 20, page 7.

12

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

14

15 **Offered Amendments:** None



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March 17, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 516, SD1
RELATING TO HEMP

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 516, SD1, which requires that the identity statement used for labeling or advertising hemp products identify the percentage of Hawai'i grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products.

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 ensuring that hemp produced in the State is labeled as Hawai'i produced and that hemp produced outside the State is labeled with the appropriate origin.

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

The decorticating process for hemp removes the tough woody interior (the hurd), from the fibrous exterior of the stalk (the bast); it is necessary to create value added products from the entire hemp stalk.

- The vertical mill decorticates the material to liberate the bast fiber from the inner hurd.
- The material is blown from the mill outlet via air to a settling box/horizontal aspiration chamber to remove it from the airstream and roughly separate the hurd from the fiber.
- The material is then screened to classify it by size and further separate the fiber and hurd.
- The hurd sizing screens are tailored the desired uses of the product. o i.e., large pieces for animal bedding.
- A compression bagging station can be installed for standard bedding packaging.
- Small to medium particles for Hempcrete.
- Fine particles for bioplastics.
- The larger hurd can be size reduced through a hammermill or micronizer to make it suitable for bioplastics.
- The fiber length can be tailored to the end product desired through adjustments to the vertical mill.
- Further fiber processing steps such as cottonizing can be done after the fiber is separated from the hurd.
- The material is then conveyed to bagging stations, bulk bins, live bottom trucks or directly to subsequent manufacturing operations in the facility.

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 11:19:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bruce corker	Rancho Aloha Coffee Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

I am a farmer in Holualoa in Hawaii County and **I support SB516** as a TRUTH-IN-LABELING bill that will protect consumers from deception and fraud caused by misleading labelling and will protect the “Hawaii Brand” for the economic benefit of Hawaii farmers.

Please pass SB516. Please protect the integrity of Hawaii-grown products.

Thank you,

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha

Holualoa, Hawaii County



Officers

Kaipō Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipō Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB516.**

As a farmers union, it is our mission to ensure that farmers have access to markets for their products. This bill will help farmers in Hawaii access local markets for hemp products produced in their state. Currently, there is no law that requires hemp producers to disclose the origin of the hemp in their products, which hurts Hawaii farmers. With this bill, customers will have the opportunity to make an informed decision about their purchases and to better understand the quality of the product they are buying. This is important for our farmers, as hemp is a fast-growing market and local farmers need access to markets in order to keep their businesses running. This bill will help our farmers and sustain the hold in the markets they have worked so diligently to create.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipō Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org

March 16, 2023

RE: SUPPORT SB 516 Origin Labeling for Hemp Products

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 516.

Hawaii hemp farmers have the highest costs of production among U.S. hemp farmers. Because Hawaii branded products often garner more in the marketplace, accurate origin labeling is one of the few ways for Hawaii hemp farmers can remain competitive which also creates a more circular economy that benefits Hawaii residents.

Origin labeling protects the quality and authenticity of Hawaii's hemp industry and supports the recognition of Hawaii farmers' hard work is accurately represented in the marketplace while supporting consumers right to transparency.

Further, the Hawaii hemp cannabinoid market is approximated to be \$32,000,000 to \$54,000,000 annually, but most of that money flows to out-of-state hemp farmers and businesses due in part to Hawaii residents not being able to differentiate between products made with imported hemp and products made with Hawaii grown hemp.

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 516

Labeling for Hemp Products

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 9:32:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Hawai'i Sustainable Farms	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

support

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 3:44:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 1:48:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support any legislation that will allow Hawaii famers to grow this harmless yet economically beneficial plant. The benefits to our state could be huge in terms of the viability of farms, additional jobs, product growth, increased economic output, good envoronmental stewardship, and tax revenues. Please move this legislation forward.

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 1:58:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:01:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB516

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:07:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this important Bill,

Mahalo,

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:32:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Soo Sun Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of SB 516 SD1

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:38:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-516-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 8:05:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill. DFL