



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture
and

Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Friday, February 5, 2016 at 2:45 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2787 – RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2787, which provides the authority, procedures, and licensing requirements related to the production of industrial hemp as an agricultural product; requires the department of agriculture to promote industrial hemp research and development of markets for industrial hemp; and requires the possession, use, sale, or transfer of industrial hemp for research and development purposes to not constitute certain offenses involving a detrimental drug.

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports economic development of the agricultural sector, including research and development efforts with new crops and cropping systems in order to strengthen and diversify agriculture in the State of Hawai'i. As authorized by the Hawai'i State Legislature, and by the federal Farm Bill, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, recently completed a pilot study of industrial hemp cultivation in Hawai'i, and demonstrated that certain strains of industrial hemp can grow quickly to significant height under Hawai'i conditions.

SB 2787 builds upon this pilot study to allow industrial hemp research and cultivation by other parties throughout the state, under license and direction by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture on the fiscal and management implications of SB 2787, we support the effort to develop a new crop for Hawai'i.