



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 9:05 a.m.

by

Maria Gallo, Dean

and

J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 154 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to offer comments in support of HB 154 HD2 SD1, which would authorize the director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to establish a two-year industrial hemp remediation and biofuel research program, subject to obtaining federal and state permits.

HB 154 HD2 SD1 is one of three bills currently under consideration for the same purpose.

We support the intent of HB 154 HD2 SD1, but note that the bill is out of date with respect to legal requirements, since it was introduced in the 2013 regular legislative session. It is our understanding that any permit requirements have been superseded by Section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as Public Law 113-79.

Our sole concerns with all three similar bills are (1) that adequate funding be provided for any research to be conducted, (2) that such research and funding not replace nor adversely impact any priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents' Approved Executive Biennium Budget, (3) and that a minimum two-year period be allowed in order to obtain meaningful research results. We have determined that the costs of a two-year research program are \$150,000.