



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
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By

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And

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HB 1717 – RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1717, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot project to allow people to grow industrial hemp for animal feed.

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 under Hawai'i conditions.

HB 1717 builds upon this pilot study to allow industrial hemp research and cultivation by other parties throughout the state to investigate its possible potential for animal feed, 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 HB 1717, we support the intent of the bill to develop new crops and new sources of animal feed for Hawai'i.