



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments to the
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 9:30 am

by
Maria Gallo, Dean
and

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

SB 2175 SD2 – RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 2175 SD1, which would authorize the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to establish a two-year industrial hemp remediation and biofuel research program.

Although we are not immediately familiar with the evidence supporting the research directions suggested for hemp in SB 2175 SD2, we support investigation of all legal crops of potential value to Hawai'i. Should extramural funds, that do not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents' Approved Executive Biennium Budget, be made available to faculty within CTAHR and the investigators comply with any applicable state and federal regulations, we are supportive of such research. We assume that the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Safety will facilitate any research efforts.

We understand that there is interest in other states in having their departments of agriculture establish procedures for registering private growers as participants in hemp research, with sale of their crop as a byproduct of the research activity. If private parties in Hawai'i are interested in conducting hemp research, the University of Hawai'i would defer approval to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture as falling within the department's regulatory purview.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.