

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 13, 2019  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1351 SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1351 SD 1, which allows the department's seed certification personnel to perform inspections for its hemp program, and charge fees for the performance of such inspections. The hemp program currently has one employee and needs access to more personnel and resources to run an expanded program. The ability to utilize already-existing seed certification program personnel currently located on three islands would allow the department to expand its program capacity in an efficient manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**SB-1351-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:42:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-1351-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:01:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill even though it will put more financial burden on the farmers but we understand that without funding, the department of Ag cannot perform at the level needed.

Mahalo,

Yosh

**SB-1351-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:06:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1351-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 11:10:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair, Co-Chair and Committee Members,

Although I support conducting inspections of HEMP crops, I cannot support this bill as it includes harsh penalties if a crop tests higher than 0.3% THC. Growers strive to keep the levels to allowable amounts but THC is the plant's natural sunscreen and so levels are the result of how much light the plant receives. Violations are likely accidental rather than intentional and should be treated as such, so revoking or suspending a grower's license is a harsh penalty.

Please keep this in mind if you support this bill.

Mahalo,

Wendy Gibson RN