

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 388

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2023

RE: S.B. No. 655
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 655 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEMP,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to give authority to the Department of Agriculture to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal law when concerning exemptions for fiber, fuel, and seed grain hemp crops.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Hemp Farmers Association, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea, and eleven individuals. Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from two individuals.

Your Committees find that Hawaii's hemp industry is the most regulated in the nation and that overregulation hinders valuable growth in the industry, which otherwise could foster sustainable resources and food security in Hawaii, particularly with regard to the fiber, fuel, and seed grain sectors. Your Committees additionally find that there are numerous projects in the State examining the many uses of hemp, but most of these projects import hemp due to the regulatory barriers to growing hemp in Hawaii. This measure gives the Department of Agriculture authority to



align state hemp regulations with federal law to minimize any unnecessary regulations that hamper the growth and production of Hawaii's hemp industry.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language as recommended by the Hawai'i Hemp Farmers Association, which gives the Department of Agriculture the authority to regulate commercial hemp production rules to align with federal laws;
- (2) Repealing unnecessary statutory language relating to nuisance, as recommended by the Department of Agriculture, since pre-existing regulations and authority under the Department of Health and county land use ordinances already address the areas of nuisance referenced, and to avoid confusion and any challenges brought on by a duplicative enforcement framework; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 655, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 655, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Agriculture and
Environment and Public Safety
and Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs,



GLENN WAKAI, Chair



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB655	Committee Referral: AEN/PSM, JDC	Date: 2/13/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; margin-top:10px;"> </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes