



HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 9, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are a bipartisan group of Hawaii Legislators in leadership positions. We are writing to ask for your support of industrial hemp and for your administration to turn this agricultural issue back to the states.

Hawaii is one of sixteen states which have passed or are considering passing industrial hemp measures. A chart detailing states' actions is enclosed. Governor Benjamin Cayetano has a clear vision of the enormous potential of industrial hemp for Hawaii's agricultural industry. To accomplish this vision, Governor Cayetano has written to Mr. Donnie Marshall, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration requesting him to finalize regulations to permit industrial hemp to be cultivated as an agricultural crop. Please see the enclosed letter where Governor Cayetano explains these regulations are "crucial to the future of Hawaii's emerging industrial hemp industry."

Act 305 (SLH 1999) established The Hawaii Industrial Hemp Research Project (HIHRP). Industrial hemp seed was planted in a public ceremony in a quarter-acre site in Wahiawa on December 14, 1999. The HIHRP is developing an industrial hemp variety appropriate for Hawaii's latitude.

We anticipate using industrial hemp to produce building materials (the technology already is here in Hawaii), to use as a source for ethanol, and to make into some of the 25,000 products which can be produced from industrial hemp. Included in these products are highly nutritional foodstuffs made from the hemp seed, oil and meal, which contain essential fatty acids and proteins. It is important to acknowledge that the minimal amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) present in industrial hemp, unlike marijuana, disqualifies any concerns regarding mind-altering effects from the plant.

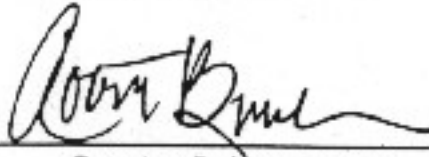
We strongly support the proposed rule change about which Governor Cayetano wrote to Mr. Marshall. These rules would allow America's farmers to grow industrial hemp

under carefully prescribed circumstances. Industrial hemp seed would be certified to contain 0.3% or less tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Industrial hemp fields would be masked from public roads by another agricultural crop. A minimum of ten acres would be required, and the farmer could not have been convicted of a felony.

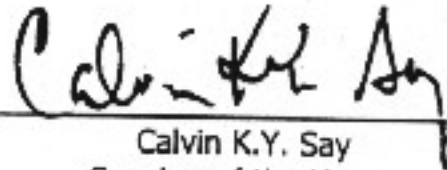
We do not support the DEA's other proposed change. Those proposed rules would ban all hemp products intended for human consumption and designate hemp food products as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act.

Industrial hemp is a state agricultural issue, not a drug issue. Banning hemp products intended for consumption will negatively impact industrial hemp manufacturing and production, thus impairing America's farmers and manufacturers. In light of the growing support of state legislatures for industrial hemp, it is timely and essential that the federal government remove barriers to its cultivation and production.

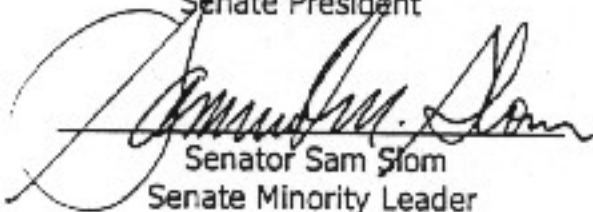
With warm aloha,



Senator Robert Bunda
Senate President



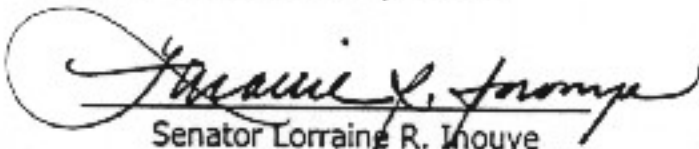
Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker of the House



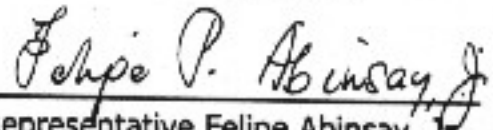
Senator Sam Slom
Senate Minority Leader



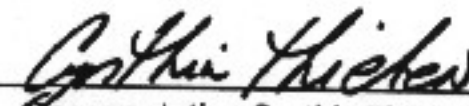
Representative Galen Fox
House Minority Leader



Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
Chair, Committee on Water,
Land, Energy, Environment



Representative Felipe Abinsay, Jr.
Chair, Committee on Agriculture



Representative Cynthia Thielen
Assistant Minority Floor Leader

Enclosures

Cc: Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR

April 7, 2000

Mr. Donnie Marshall
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
700 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Please extend my thanks to your staff for the professional handling of the issues associated with the Hawaii Industrial Hemp Research Project. As you are aware, the project received its permit from your department on November 16, 1999, and industrial hemp seeds were planted on December 14, 1999. This privately-funded research project is the first step in demonstrating that industrial hemp is a viable agricultural crop for the State of Hawaii.

I understand that your department has drafted regulations for the growing of industrial hemp within certain parameters. These regulations are crucial to the future of Hawaii's emerging industrial hemp industry.

I also understand that these draft regulations are awaiting your approval and subsequently will be published in the Federal Register for comment.

Please let me know when the draft regulations will be approved and published in the Federal Register.

With warmest personal regards,

Aloha,

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO

c: Representative Cynthia Thielen ✓