

**ACT 263 SLH 2023 - HAWAII HEMP TASK FORCE**  
 Jointly convened by the Department of Agriculture (DOA)  
 and Department of Health (DOH)

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Date: Friday, August 30, 2024

Time: 12:00 P.M. – 5:45 P.M. (HST)

In-Person Meeting Location: Plant Quarantine Branch, Conference Room  
 Department of Agriculture  
 1849 Auiki Street  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3100

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736806861>

Recording Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9ssHzXh1rM>

Present Task Force Members via Zoom:

Gail Byrne Baber	Robert Bence	Ty Cheng
Jared Dalgamouni	Kelly King	Kyle Leong
Michele Matsuda	Brittany Neal	Grant Overton
Gregory Smith	Joseph Smith	Rusty Tapp

Absent Task Force Member:

Janine Holstein	Gloria Ilagan	Qing Li
Judiah McRoberts	Liliana Napoleon	Scotty Wong

Staff present in person/Zoom:

Stephen Dalton – DOA	Greg Edwards – DOH	Liam Gimon - DOH
Andrew Goff – DAG (Zoom)	Travis Moon – DAG	Lori Nagatoshi – DOH
Michele Nakata – DOH (Zoom)	Leo Obaldo – DOA	Jun Tulio - DOA
Heidy Tuliao - DOA		

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted to the Hawaii State calendar as required by Section 92-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, Office of Information Practices.

- I. Call to order: Chair Baber called the meeting to order.  
[ 00:00:06 ]
- [ 00:02:47 ] Facilitator Tulio conducted the roll call and confirmed eleven (11) members present as follows:  
Gail Byrne-Baber  
Robert Bence  
Ty Cheng  
Jared Dalgamouni  
Kelly King  
Kyle Leong  
Michele Matsuda  
Brittany Neal  
Grant Overton  
Joseph Smith  
Rusty Tapp
- [ 00:04:58 ] Facilitator Tulio informed the Task Force that a quorum was established.
- [ 00:05:02 ] Facilitator Tulio reminded the members of the objectives, responsibilities, and the end date (August 30, 2024), of the task force.
- [ 00:06:28 ] [ Joseph Smith *logged into the meeting.* ]
- [ 00:06:37 ] Facilitator Tulio acknowledged the late attendance of Joseph Smith.
- [ 00:06:48 ] Comments from Chair Baber.
- [ 00:07:44 ] Discussion between Chair Baber, DAG Goff, and Mr. Overton about the final report and proxy voting.
- IV. Approval of the Hawaii Hemp Task Force Final Report to the legislature:
- [ 00:13:57 ] Chair Baber, Ms. Neal, Mr. G. Smith, and Mr. Cheng discussed the summary of final report.
- [ 00:24:44 ] Chair Baber, DAG Goff, Mr. Cheng, and Mr. Overton discussed the tracked changes and added footnotes.
- [ 00:27:51 ] Biofuel comments from Ms. King, Mr. Overton, Mr. Cheng, and Chair Baber.
- [ 00:32:03 ] Mr. Cheng, Chair Baber, Mr. Tapp, Ms. King, and Mr. Bence discussed the values and citations referenced in the summary.

[ 00:43:03 ] Ms. King commented on the biofuel pie chart and the 1937 hemp cultivation prohibition.

[ 00:45:33 ] Summary comments from Ms. Neal, Chair Baber, Mr. Bence, and Mr. Tapp.

[ 01:00:06 ] **Motion to request to the task force to update the summary section of final report.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Chair Baber called for a vote on this motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	No
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	No
Jared Dalgamouni	No
Kelly King	No
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	No
Grant Overton	No
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	No
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion did not pass.

[ 01:05:28 ] Chair Baber, Mr. Bence, Mr. Leong, Ms. King, Mr. Tapp, Mr. Cheng, and Mr. J. Smith discussed revisions to the summary section.

[ 01:30:51 ] **Motion to request the task force to vote on the amended table of contents, summary, and citations of the final report.**

**Motion made by:** Joseph Smith

**Seconded by:** Ty Cheng

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kelly King	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes

Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 01:31:00 ] [ Grant Overton *left the meeting.* ]

[ 01:35:27 ] Chair Baber, Ms. King, Mr. Bence, Mr. J. Smith, Ms. Neal, and Mr. Tapp discussed the Fiber and Building Materials Sector.

[ 01:47:01 ] **Motion to request the task force to vote on the amended Fiber and Building Materials Sector of the final report.**

**Motion made by:** Joseph Smith  
**Seconded by:** Jared Dalgamouni

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
 Rusty Tapp objected to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kelly King	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	No

The motion passed.

[ 01:48:38 ] Quorum discussion between Ms. King, DAG Goff, and Chair Baber.

[ 01:50:31 ] DAG Goff clarified that three members opposed earlier voting and not just one member.

[ 01:50:47 ] Chair Baber, Mr. Bence, Mr. G. Smith, Ms. King, and Mr. Tapp discussed various funding opportunities.

[ 02:08:11 ] DAG Goff, Chair Baber, Ms. King, Mr. Tapp, Mr. J. Smith, and Ms. Neal discussed the grant reference in each section of the final report and voting implication if member is leaving the meeting.

[ 02:12:09 ] **Motion to request the task force to vote on the grant section for each sector.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal

**Seconded by:** Joseph Smith

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kelly King	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 02:13:47 ] **Motion to request the task force to re-vote on the amended Fiber and Building Materials sector of the final report.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Facilitator Tulio called for a re-vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kelly King	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes

Rusty Tapp Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 02:14:59 ]

**Motion to request the task force to re-vote on the amended Food and Animal Feed sector of the final report.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Facilitator Tulio called for a re-vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber Yes

Robert Bence Yes

Ty Cheng Yes

Jared Dalgamouni Yes

Kelly King Yes

Kyle Leong Yes

Michele Matsuda Yes

Brittany Neal Yes

Greg Smith Yes

Joseph Smith Yes

Rusty Tapp Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 02:18:00 ]

[ Kelly King *left the meeting.* ]

[ 02:19:11 ]

**Motion to request the task force to authorize Chair Baber to redact company names or specific businesses while proofreading the final report.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal

**Seconded by:** Robert Bence

Comments from DAG Goff, Ms. Neal, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. Cheng, and Mr. Bence about the removal of business names in the report by the Chair.

The motion was not voted on.

[ 02:32:31 ]

Mr. Matsuda, Chair Baber, Mr. J. Smith, and DAG Goff discussed continuing the task force.

[ 02:37:08 ]

Ms. Neal, Mr. Bence, Chair Baber, Mr. Cheng, Mr. G. Smith, and Mr. Tapp discussed grant fundings for various sectors.

[ 02:55:06 ]

**Motion to request the task force to amend the vote on the language to be included in all sectors in replacement of a specific language for grant funding.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal  
**Seconded by:** Robert Bence

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
Rusty Tapp objected to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	No

The motion did not pass.

[ 02:56:50 ]

Discussion between Chair Baber, Mr. Tapp, Mr. Cheng, DAG Goff, Mr. Bence, Ms. Neal, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Matsuda on the failed vote to amend the language of grant funding for several sections except for 1 section with the grant language that has already been voted.

[ 03:11:107 ]

**Motion to request the task force to vote on the entire research section.**

**Motion made by:** Rusty Tapp  
**Seconded by:** Robert Bence

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes

Joseph Smith Yes  
Rusty Tapp Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 03:13:02 ]

**Motion to request the task force to confirm the vote on the feed, fiber and summary sections with deletion of grants.**

**Motion made by:** Gail Byrne Baber

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing. There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber Yes  
Robert Bence Yes  
Ty Cheng Yes  
Jared Dalgamouni Yes  
Kyle Leong Yes  
Michele Matsuda Yes  
Brittany Neal Yes  
Greg Smith Yes  
Joseph Smith Yes  
Rusty Tapp Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 03:16:22 ]

**Motion to request the task force to accept the report with amended recommendations to remove all of the grant language.**

**Motion made by:** Rusty Tapp

**Seconded by:** Brittany Neal

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing. There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber Yes  
Robert Bence Yes  
Ty Cheng Yes  
Jared Dalgamouni Yes  
Kyle Leong Yes  
Michele Matsuda Yes  
Brittany Neal Yes  
Greg Smith Yes  
Joseph Smith Yes



Rusty Tapp Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 03:22:41 ] Discussion between Mr. Cheng and DAG Goff about the Task Force recommendations which are addressed specifically to the legislature, and whether DOH and DOA are obligated to act on it.

[ 03:24:50 ] Discussion between Chair Baber, Mr. Cheng, Ms. Neal, Mr. Bence, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Tapp, and DAG Goff regarding the recommendations on cannabinoid sector.

[ 04:02:46 ] **Motion to request the task force to vote on the findings and recommendations for the cannabinoid sector.**

**Motion made by:** Gail Byrne Baber

**Seconded by:** Robert Bence

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 04:06:00 ] [ Grant Overton *re-joined the meeting.* ]

[ 04:14:42 ] **Motion to request the task force to vote on the actions to facilitate implementation of the recommendations.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 04:21:50 ]

**Motion to request the task force to vote on the recommendations outlined in the table for fiber and building sectors.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence  
**Seconded by:** Gregory smith

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing. There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 04:24:26 ]

**Motion to request the task force to revisit and adopt the recommendations on fiber and building materials and removing of grants.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence  
**Seconded by:** Brittany Neal

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 04:26:38 ] Discussion between Chair Baber, Mr. Overton, and Mr. Tapp about the recommendations on the biofuel sector.

[ 04:36:38 ] **Motion to request the task force to vote on the recommendations outlined in the table for fuel and biomass sector.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence

**Seconded by:** Gregory Smith

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 04:47:02 ]

**Motion to request the task force to vote on the recommendations outlined in the table for food and animal feed sector.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 04:55:00 ]

**Motion to request the task force to vote on the recommendations outlined in the table for cultivar research.**

**Motion made by:** Rusty Tapp

**Seconded by:** Brittany Neal

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.  
There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 05:16:06 ]

**Motion to request the task force to vote on the recommendations outlined in the table for cannabinoid sector.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal

**Seconded by:** Robert Bence

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing. There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 05:20:40 ]

**Motion to request the task force to allow the Chair to make minor and non-substantial changes in the entire report including adding page numbers to the table of contents, combining all chapters and subsections into one report, adding references, citations, and acknowledgements.**

**Motion made by:** Brittany Neal

**Seconded by:** Gregory Smith

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing. There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 05:22:03 ]

**Motion to request the task force to accept the entire report with all the non-substantial changes to be compiled and submitted by the Chair.**

**Motion made by:** Grant Overton

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Facilitator Tulio called for a vote on this motion and asked if there were any objections to the motion passing.

There were no objections to the motion.

Gail Byrne Baber	Yes
Robert Bence	Yes
Ty Cheng	Yes
Jared Dalgamouni	Yes
Kyle Leong	Yes
Michele Matsuda	Yes
Brittany Neal	Yes
Grant Overton	Yes
Greg Smith	Yes
Joseph Smith	Yes
Rusty Tapp	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

[ 05:24:07 ]

**Motion to request the task force to compel DOA to remove the consultant's report in the Hawaii Hemp Task Force website.**

**Motion made by:** Robert Bence

**Seconded by:** Rusty Tapp

Ty Cheng objected to the motion.

The motion was not voted on.

[ 05:25:36 ]

Discussion between Chair Baber, Mr. Bence, Mr. Cheng, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. Tapp, Ms. Neal, and DAG Goff about the Consultant's report.

[ 05:32:47 ]

**Motion to request the task force to vote on the letter in response to the consultant's report to be attached to the Task Force Report or posted in the Hawaii Hemp Task Force website.**

**Motion made by:** Rusty Tapp  
**Seconded by:** Robert Bence

The motion was withdrawn.

[ 05:38:30 ] DAG Goff reminding Chair Baber to email a copy of the Task Force-approved changes to DOA before doing any compilation or changing of the draft, and email the final draft to DOA as well.

IV. Adjournment  
[ 05:39:00 ] Facilitator Tulio adjourned the meeting.