

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 12, 2024
1:31 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. SB 2366
RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS**

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2366 relating to Neonicotinoids. The bill classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides (RUP) and establishes a list of chemicals that belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The Department currently has 381 licensed products containing at least one of the following active ingredients in the neonicotinoid classification:

- Acetamiprid; 16
- Clothianidin; 26
- Dinotefuran; 50
- Imidacloprid; 274
- Nitenpyram; 0
- Nithiazine; 0
- Thiacloprid; 0
- Thiamethoxam; 15

Products within the neonicotinoid class of active ingredients include products such as flea collars and flea topicals for cats and dogs and indoor applications such as



bed bug, cockroach, and termite treatments. All these use cases would require a certified applicator to apply any of these types of pesticides. All requirements for certified applicators including recordkeeping and use reporting would also be necessary if all these products were placed on the State's RUP list.

The exemption carved out in this bill only applies to the structural pest control industry and does not exempt the public from the use of these products related to domesticated animal and/or home-use application. The Department does not see a practical way to differentiate household use of a neonicotinoid product from a structural pest control application done by a licensed pest control operator unless there is a specific exemption allowed within an amendment. A home-use application of a product containing a neonicotinoid by a homeowner would still require a certified applicator if the bill were approved unamended or the homeowner would have to contract a pest control operator to apply these products in and around their home. This exemption provides an allowance for reduced regulatory requirements for the structural pest control industry.

Notification to both brick and mortar and online retailers would need to be provided to ensure all neonicotinoids are not sold to the public. Extensive efforts have been taken to notify retailers of recent changes to Hawaii Pesticide Laws which occurred in 2019 with over 200 retail locations being either inspected or provided consultative services since the laws went into effect. A similar, if not greater effort would be required by the Pesticides Branch to provide ample notice to all distributors of these products. In addition, if those retailers choose to continue to distribute those products, they will need to become licensed RUP dealers and would need to comply with Hawaii's RUP Dealer recordkeeping requirements.

Retailers would also be required to identify who is a licensed pest control operator and would need to note the sale of the product as non-restricted. Pest Control Operators do not carry "licenses" to signify they are employed by a licensed pest control company. The Department has concerns related to errors in RUP sales recordkeeping and reporting if this bill is passed.

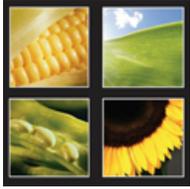
Additional processing time and staffing efforts would be required if this magnitude of products is added to the annual RUP reporting and summary requirement due to the extensive use of all these products throughout the state. Processing these new RUPs would also take away time from our Education and Case Preparation staff from

completing other necessary tasks such as education, outreach, and case development. If passed the Department requests one (1) additional Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) III to process the increase in RUP reporting. The Department would also request nine (9) additional EHS IV positions, one for each county to provide effective outreach to the affected industries and another to increase inspection and compliance with the associated laws. The remaining EHS IV would assist with case preparation duties related to enforcement.

All neonicotinoids have been widely studied and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides pesticide tolerances separated by crop type for each of the active ingredients named in this bill. The U.S. EPA is also required to reevaluate all pesticide active ingredients on a 15-year rotating basis to ensure they meet current scientific and regulatory standards. All pesticides labels are enforceable and are regulated by the Department through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA. Many of the labels have specific information and requirements to limit pollinator effects such as “do not apply this product when foraging bees are present” or “apply this product when pollinators are least active”. The Pesticides Branch routinely enforces civil and criminal penalties based on the use/misuse of pesticides by any applicator.

The Department cautions the reduced availability of tools to protect against pest pressures, especially a tool which is so widely used by both the public, conservationists, the agricultural, pest control, and landscaping industries. Several areas within the Department’s immediate jurisdiction will be affected by this restriction including biosecurity, agricultural production, and plant quarantine treatments. As the classifications of these products shift from general use to RUP, buffer zone laws will need to be followed in and around schools with current bills potentially expanding the respective restrictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SB2366 – In Opposition
Relating to Neonicotinoids

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024
Time: 1:31 PM
Place: Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition to SB2366**, which classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides (RUP) and establishes a list of chemicals that belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

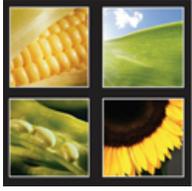
Neonicotinoids are among the safest pesticides for people and the environment. Eliminating these insecticides would remove valuable crop protection tools for those farmers who do not have an RUP applicators license. It also serves as an effective tool to combat the extremely important invasive species crisis. As our state seeks to increase local food production, grow the agriculture industry, and protect our community from the influx of invasive species, a measure like this represents a significant roadblock.

Hawaii's farmers practice integrated pest management, which includes using beneficial insects to reduce pests and weeds while using pesticides only when necessary. Neonicotinoids allows for this process to take place because it ensures the beneficial insects remain available to keep the other potential harmful pests in check. Eliminating low-risk, highly effective products like neonicotinoids would only force farmers to use heavier, costlier products.

Additionally, all pesticides undergo a rigorous scientific review process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began registration review of the neonicotinoid class in 2016. Since that time, experienced scientific staff have conducted detailed risk assessments looking at the benefits and impacts (both human and ecological). In 2020, the EPA released proposed interim decisions for several neonicotinoids that contained new mitigations to reduce any ecological risks, particularly to pollinators.

Hawaii farmers follow the regulations and guidance of the U.S. EPA and Department of Agriculture. Because of their expertise, these agencies are trusted to provide a regulatory structure that is both safe and necessary to support a thriving agriculture industry. To have the state categorize neonicotinoids as an RUP would be an action that ignores the U.S. EPA's science-based and rigorous regulatory review process and would create another significant challenge to our local farming community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and we ask that you do not advance this measure.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2366

Monday, February 12th, 2023 1:31 a.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

HAPA **supports SB2366** which classifies neonicotinoid pesticides (systemic insecticides which pose severe threats to pollinators and environmental health) as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs). **We offer the following amendment suggestions for this measure:**

- Exempt in-door use pet treatments and pest control products;
- Clarify impeccably in the language a process for permitting use for conservation and emergency treatment of invasive species infestations; and
- Consider rather than classification of neonics as RUPs, an outright ban on outdoor use for turf, ornamental plants, landscaping and open air outdoor agricultural uses (similar to New York's the Birds and Bees Protection Act) or banning neonic use on all outdoor areas, allowing use only in enclosed greenhouses (in alignment with the EU).

SB2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs with the goal of providing for better oversight and reporting. Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai'i starts with some form of oversight and tracking of use, especially in the light of failure to do so on the federal level¹.

Ideally, actions could be taken to ban these outdoor widespread uses, or the RUP classification and details will need to be more tediously carved out to exempt targeted spot treatment for invasive species emergency use and in-home (in-door) pest control uses.

Approaches in Other States

Several states have already stepped up to protect communities from the harms of neonics². Maine **prohibits the use of most neonics in residential landscapes**.³ New Jersey passed a law that **prohibits outdoor, non-agricultural neonic uses**, estimated to be up to 70% of

¹ abcbirds.org/news/2023-neonic-report/

² Beyond Pesticides (2023) States Step In to Restrict Bee-Toxic Pesticides, California the Latest in Absence of EPA Action

³ environmentamerica.org/maine/media-center/maine-governor-signs-bill-to-save-the-bees/



neonics used there.⁴ Nevada **banned lawn and garden uses of neonics**, while Colorado **prohibited homeowner use of the land and garden neonic products**, similar to laws in Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

New York passed the “Birds and Bees Protection Act,” last year which was the first to specifically move to **ban neonic-treated seeds, banning ornamental and turf neonic uses, and requiring the state to take a hard look at other neonic uses and collect data on usage**. This measure even moved to completely ban neonic-treated corn, soybean, and wheat seeds.⁵ California is also taking action against neonics with a proposed policy that would **ban nearly all non-agricultural uses** of the pesticides.⁶

Minnesota recently **banned neonic use on state lands and granted its home-rule subdivisions the authority to ban “pollinator-lethal pesticides”** (those with bee warning labels) under its state law preempting local authority to restrict pesticides.

All of these state-level restrictions pale in comparison to the robust protections currently implemented in the European Union (EU), where the EU has **banned neonicotinoid pesticide use on all outdoor areas, allowing use only in enclosed greenhouses**.^{7 8}

Specific Concerns in Hawai‘i

Given exemptions from tracking, reporting and federal oversight there are specific concerns about the use of neonics here in Hawai‘i. Given our history of seed production there remains ongoing questions about what neonic seed coating may be happening in Hawai‘i, with absolutely no oversight this may have been occurring for decades.

We ask the legislature to please investigate and consider this as the measure moves forward and understand the urgency for oversight and that there are potential for longer term issues that may present in the future from pesticide seed coating areas, just like pesticide mixing areas during plantation.

Background and Impacts of Neonicotinoids (Neonics)

Neonics are systemic pesticides that are taken up through the life of a plant and cycled through environmental systems, by their very nature designed to persist. They are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular

⁴ [nrdc.org/experts/lucas-rhoads/new-jersey-enacts-groundbreaking-neonic-legislation](https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lucas-rhoads/new-jersey-enacts-groundbreaking-neonic-legislation)

⁵ [nrdc.org/experts/daniel-raichel/science-polling-support-renewed-ny-bill-save-bees](https://www.nrdc.org/experts/daniel-raichel/science-polling-support-renewed-ny-bill-save-bees)

⁶ <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lucas-rhoads/5-things-know-about-ca-bill-curb-bee-killing-neonics>

⁷ <https://www.science.org/content/article/european-union-expands-ban-three-neonicotinoid-pesticides>

⁸ <https://www.panna.org/blog/eu-bans-neonics-us-bees-not-so-lucky>



insecticide class in the United States. The way they work is by permanently binding to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them.

Given mounting science showing that neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health⁹; it seems clear now there is enough evidence to support the outright ban on these widespread outdoor uses of neonics.

In 2023 there was significant coverage of the EPA analysis that said three neonicotinoids (thiamethoxam, clothianidin and imidacloprid) threaten more than 200 endangered species – more than 1 in 10 protected species¹⁰. Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure and Hawai'i is home to seven species of endangered Hawaiian Yellow-faced Bees and an incredible range of native insects that could be at risk.

Related to human health, neonics were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse).¹¹

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water.¹² Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.¹³

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.¹⁴

Several animal studies have reported adverse effects of neonics on sperm, and prenatal exposure to neonics increasing the risk of neurodevelopmental abnormalities and birth defects. While more research is needed, these harms found to animals raise human health concerns.¹⁵

Additionally, a systematic review of publicly available literature reported a link between human neonic exposures and malformations of the developing heart and brain, as well as symptoms that include memory loss and finger tremors.¹⁶

⁹ Elizabeth D. Hilborn (2023), *Restoring Eden: Unearthing the Agribusiness Secret That Poisoned My Farming Community*

¹⁰ The Good Men Project (2023) Three Widely Used Pesticides Driving Hundreds of Endangered Species Toward Extinction, According to EPA

¹¹ <https://www.panna.org/blog/neonics-under-fire>

¹² <https://realfoodmedia.org/americas-soil-is-48-times-more-toxic-than-a-quarter-century-ago-blame-neonics/>

¹³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412014003183>

¹⁴ Beyondpesticides (2023) neonicotinoid-insecticides-add-to-the-growing-list-of-chemicals-that-transfer-between-mother-and-fetus/

¹⁵ <https://www.panna.org/blog/neonics-under-fire>

¹⁶ <https://www.panna.org/blog/neonics-under-fire>



Conclusion

We strongly support the intent of this measure and the effort to have better oversight and reporting on neonics in Hawai'i, and thank the committee for drafting SB2366.

Given extensive science relating to the impacts associated, the failure on the federal level to have oversight and reporting of neonic use, and the precedence of many other states taking action to protect their ecosystems from systemic pesticides we believe that a ban for turf, ornamental, landscaping and open air outdoor agricultural uses is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the typed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Jon Gaeta, Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment

Date: 2/12/2024

RE: *SB 2366; Relating to Neonicotinoids*

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning SB 2366, which would reclassify neonicotinoids as a state restricted use. **We respectfully oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable vote.**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews neonicotinoids as part of its pesticide registration review program. Requirements for this regular review of all pesticides to ensure they meet the most current scientific standards passed into law under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. The current registration review for neonicotinoids began during the Obama Administration in 2011. U.S. EPA published draft assessments in 2017 for imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and dinotefuran, finding that “most approved uses do not pose significant risk to bee colonies.” U.S. EPA published in January 2020, the Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision for these neonicotinoids and is scheduled to finalize its assessments in 2024. This forthcoming information can provide substantive context for the discussion in Hawai’i.

The neonicotinoid-based products available to consumers are among the safest insecticides for people and the environment and are the latest innovation in insecticides. This aspect of these products should not be overlooked – neonicotinoids may often be the best solution due to their lower environmental impact and safety for people and pets. Because of their selective control, neonicotinoids help ensure beneficial insects remain available to keep other potential pests in check.

Pesticides in Hawai’i are regulated at both the State and Federal level. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) governs pesticide regulation to protect applicators, consumers, and the environment. FIFRA enforcement is focused on the sale, distribution, and use of pesticides. Before a pesticide may be sold in the U.S. it must be registered with the EPA. Neonicotinoid insecticides have been registered by the EPA due to their favorable environmental profile and their low risk to human health.

Hawaiian residents need access to affordable, DIY neonicotinoid products to protect their families and pets from ticks and to protect their highly valued trees from hala scale, an invasive insect that damages hala leaves as well as the tree’s fruit and young seedlings. Hala scale

originated in Hana, Maui in 1995 but has since spread to Moloka'I and O'ahu. The Department of Agriculture specifically cites the use of neonics to combat the invasive pest.

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2021/04/hala-scale-PA-15-01-update-4-8-2021.pdf>

We believe the best way forward will be collaborative, focusing on increased outreach and engagement with all residents, including professional applicators, consumers, growers, commercial property owners, land managers and beekeepers, about positive steps each can take to increase forage and habitat and to prevent diseases such as Varroa mite and Nosema in managed hives. Evaluating and supporting pollinator health is complex, which means there is no simple, one-step solution for this multi-factor issue.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to share our perspective about meaningful and data-driven support for pollinators. We ask the committee for an unfavorable vote on SB 2366.

Sincerely,



Jon Gaeta
Director, State Affairs
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
JGaeta@pestfacts.org 202-695-5725

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is the national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders engaged with specialty pesticides and fertilizers used by professionals and consumers.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:51:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

Neonics pose significant risk to humans and all living creatures. Classifying these poisons as RUP is a very small step in the right direction. Banning them completely would be best for all future generations. But short of an all out ban, classifying them under the RUP will start the process of at least knowing when and where they are being used.

Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Green Party of Hawai‘i stands in strong support of SB 2366.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair Green Party of Hawai'i

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:51:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for tighter regulation of neonicotinoids, critical to saving bees that we need for many purposes, including pollination!

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Comm. on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, February 12, 2024
1:31 PM Via Videoconference

RE: **SB2366** Pollinator Protections - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we are in strong support of SB2366, which classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides and establishes a list of chemicals that belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.

Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support. There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai'i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai'i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 10, 2024

To: Chairs Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Richards, and the members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

Subject: **Support of SB2366**

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Food+ Policy is pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of SB2366, a critical measure aimed at regulating neonicotinoid pesticides in Hawaii. As an organization dedicated to environmental conservation and biodiversity preservation, we believe that this bill represents a significant step towards protecting Hawaii's ecosystems, pollinators, and public health.

Neonicotinoid pesticides have been identified as a major contributor to the decline of pollinator populations worldwide, including bees, butterflies, and birds. These essential pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining the health of ecosystems and ensuring the productivity of agricultural crops. However, the indiscriminate use of neonicotinoid pesticides poses a serious threat to their survival.

SB2366 acknowledges the urgent need to address the harmful impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinators, wildlife, and ecosystems. By imposing restrictions on the use of these chemicals and prioritizing alternative pest management strategies, this bill takes proactive measures to mitigate the ecological and health risks associated with neonicotinoids.

Furthermore, SB2366 underscores the importance of scientific integrity and evidence-based policymaking. The bill is informed by peer-reviewed scientific research, which clearly demonstrates the adverse effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinator health and ecosystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

stability. By relying on sound scientific evidence, SB2366 ensures that policy making is guided by facts, rather than industry interests or misinformation.

Hawaii Food+ Policy applauds the collaborative efforts of lawmakers, environmental advocates, beekeepers, farmers, and concerned citizens in crafting this legislation. The passage of SB2366 would not only protect Hawaii's pollinators and ecosystems but also safeguard public health and promote sustainable agriculture.

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy urges the Committee to support SB2366 and advance this critical measure to regulate neonicotinoid pesticides in Hawaii. By doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to environmental stewardship, biodiversity conservation, and the well-being of our communities.

Mahalo for considering our testimony,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



2/12/24

Chair Mike Gabbard
Vice-Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III
Hawai'i Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB 2366 – Classifying Neonicotinoids as Restricted Use Pesticides – NPMA Neutral with Amendment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards III, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA), founded in 1933, is the only national trade group representing the structural pest control industry with over 5,000 members worldwide. We are proud to represent a multitude of small businesses through our members; over 80% have an annual revenue of less than \$1 million. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on SB 2366, as we want to be constructive in the policymaking process. **Also, we commend the legislature's efforts to protect the health of residents and the environment in Hawai'i.**

The professional structural pest control industry and our certified commercial applicators, operators, and technicians use neonicotinoids in, on, and around structures to protect public health and property. Our industry professionally manages a wide range of structural pests with these products including ants, bedbugs, and mosquitos, among many other pests. Our member companies take pride in their role as protectors of public health, food, and property extremely seriously and are keen stewards of the environment. We wish to work alongside the legislature to ensure thoughtful, science-based regulation wins the day.

The pest management industry is highly regulated on federal and state levels, where the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture works alongside the United States Environmental Protection Agency to co-regulate pesticide application and usage. Pest management professionals must complete training, licensure testing, and continued education to stay in compliance and ensure their applications have no adverse effects on human health and the environment. NPMA members support, teach, and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for a variety of products, which greatly increases the ability of our members to safely use pesticides in a manner that does not

negatively impact non-target organisms. We are happy to share our BMPs, including those on protecting pollinators and fighting bedbug infestations, with the committee.

NPMA respectfully is neutral on SB 2366, as the bill as filed includes a partial exemption for the industry on page 2, lines 17-18: “‘Neonicotinoid pesticide’ does not include... pesticides used by the structural pest control industry for household pests in and around the home.” While this foresight by the authors of SB 2366 is laudable, it unintentionally excludes other important public health applications, such as those done on structures at commercial properties, restaurants, schools, or food manufacturing or storage facilities. **For these reasons, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to strike the phrase “for household pests in and around the home” on page 2, line 18 so that all crucial pest management applications are in scope.**

"Neonicotinoid pesticide" does not include any wood preservative pesticides or wood preservative products that contain neonicotinoid, other similar pesticides used to treat wood products, or pesticides used by the structural pest control industry." for household pests in and around the home."

Without this amendment, the RUP designation will prevent pest management professionals from being able to address vital pest issues in their communities as often as they can under the current statute.

In conclusion, we want to be constructive in the policymaking process and applaud the efforts of the authors to protect pollinators. Thank you for the opportunity to inform the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment as to how the professional pest control industry protects public health and property. Do not hesitate to contact me at jreynolds@pestworld.org if you have any questions and would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Josh Reynolds
Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
National Pest Management Association
Direct: 703.688.9450

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:23:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Walker	Testifying for Bee KInd Apiary LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Agriculture and Environment Committee Members,

I and my husband are beekeepers on Kaua'i, and we strongly support the passage of SB2366. We have seen death, disappearance, and colony collapse for our bees and those of fellow Kaua'i beekeepers from pesticides, and with unregulated pesticides there is no recourse to find out the application sources or types of pesticide used. Neonicotinoid pesticides deserve to be added to the RUP list because they need to be documented and have oversight over their use. This class of pesticides is extremely virulent and long lasting, and has significant impacts on all living things that come into contact with them, both flora and fauna. Neonicotinoids are also pervasive; once applied to seeds or plants, they infiltrate all the plant tissue, so the sap, pollen, roots, leaves, all become lethal to any creature that comes in contact with the treated plants. The impacts of this family of chemicals are enormous on not only plant and animal life, but have larger effects on soil and water that affect our entire ecosystem; I know the committee members are painfully aware of the sensitive, delicate nature of the land and waters of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's pollinators are a precious and threatened resource in our islands that need to be actively protected in order to survive. The more our legislature can insure that agricultural chemicals used in our state are carefully regulated, documented and restricted, the greater chance we have of protecting our fragile ecosystems for future generations, which is the greatest responsibility of Hawai'i elected officials and all residents of our beloved home.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

1728 Hulu Rd.

Kapa'a, HI 96746

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:49:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a "Restricted Use Pesticide" to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the world's most widely used class of insecticides. While initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

Neonics pose significant risks to humans, pollinators, and environmental health. Recently, they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems, deaths, and "bee kills" (sudden colony collapse).

Neonics can kill bees with deficient levels of exposure. Impacts on our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil, and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a substantial risk to water quality and the diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai'i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs, which would, therefore, allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai'i start with including them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for being so considerate,

Ezgi Green, Waialua

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 7:52:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Finally

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:47:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS.

Classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides and establishes a list of chemicals that belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:55:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse).

Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:59:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

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Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration, Susan Douglas

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:22:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

As a research scientist who has published scientific papers on pesticide prevalence in Hawaii, I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

Carl J. Berg, Ph.D.

Lihue, Kauai

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:22:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this measure. It will help us protect our surface water and soil. And it will help protect our birds, bees and butterflies.

We cannot afford to lose any more insect species.

Globabally the insect populations are declining at an alaming rate of 2% per year.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:26:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

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Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration

Stacey Alapai, Makawao 96768

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:47:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:00:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

As an organic farmer and pollinator supporter,

I strongly urge you to support this vital Bill to protect our pollinators. No pollinators, no food. Please don't let the chemical corporations influence you to do the right thing by adding neonicotinoides to RUP classification. We must know how much of this pesticide is being used in the islands.

Chemical Corporations don't care about anything but their bottom line.

Mahalo for the chance to testify in strong support of SB 2366.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:52:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We really have to stop poisoning ourselves and the fauna that serves us.

If the honeybee goes extinct, man will not be far behind.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:53:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosie Grady	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

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Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rosie Grady.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:45:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Teresa Landreau

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:59:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:21:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Save our pollinators ! It's a NO Brainer !

JN Makawao

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:56:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:02:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Judith C. White, Psy. D.

Kapaa

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:56:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwen Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gwen Rodrigues

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:05:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB2366.

Thank you very much!

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:18:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” TO INCLUDE neonicotinoid pesticides.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:25:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pollinators are super important to our future and need to be protected.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:49:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawaii starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please pass SB 2366.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:29:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amid a rush of really important measures, support those that support us.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 7:28:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 7:56:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, protect us!

Be pono.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:02:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics are harmful to humans, bees on which we rely, soil and water. To reduce harm from neonics in Hawaii they must be included as RUPs.

Mahalo

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:10:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

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Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Mahalo,

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Pahoa, HI

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:01:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

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Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:49:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 1:21:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Maitino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse).

Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maria Maitino
Kilauea, Kauai, Hawaii

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 2:18:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Honorable Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a "Restricted Use Pesticide" to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the world's most widely used class of insecticides. While initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

Neonics pose significant risks to humans, pollinators, and environmental health. Recently, they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems, deaths, and "bee kills" (sudden colony collapse).

Neonics can kill bees with deficient levels of exposure. Impacts on our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil, and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a substantial risk to water quality and the diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai'i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs, which would, therefore, allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai'i start with including them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for being so considerate,

Jotis Russell-Christian, Hilo, HI

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:31:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Hartsel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

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[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

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Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:48:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Honorable Committee Members,

I am to respectfully ask that you support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.](#)

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health.

Currently, no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i is done as it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting. Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 6:10:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- I ask that you pass SB 2366 and protect our pollinators that are so important to the food cycle. We literally can not survive without them- let's not poison them with chemicals.

Mahalo Judith Mick, Kailua

SB-2366

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:14:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2024 1:31:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Newman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and other Committee Members,

I apologize for the cut and paste (due to time restraints) but please understand I feel very strongly about the need to pass this measure, and I ask you all to support its passage.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2366, which would amend the definition of a “Restricted Use Pesticide” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. [The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.](#)

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There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai‘i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai‘i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.

Please support SB 2366.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lorraine Newman, Kilauea