



SB3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES
House Committee on Agriculture

March 20, 2024

10:15 a.m.

Conference Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB3026, which would propose amendments to Section 149A-51 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, focusing on the composition and functions of the advisory committee on pesticides. We also **respectfully request an amendment** to further strengthen this proposal. OHA recognizes the importance of effective pesticide management for the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our unique ecosystems.

The shift from sugar and pineapple industries to coffee and diversified agriculture is a crucial step towards modernizing our approach to agriculture in Hawai‘i. As our agricultural landscape evolves, our advisory committees must reflect these changes to provide effective guidance and oversight. Coffee and diversified agriculture represent sectors that are rapidly growing and hold significant economic potential for our state. By including representatives from these industries on the advisory committee, we can ensure that their unique challenges and perspectives are properly addressed.

A diverse advisory committee, as envisioned in SB2546, ensures a broader spectrum of perspectives, expertise, and experiences, contributing to the development of more effective and equitable pesticide laws and rules. We appreciate the way this legislation provides modernization and expanded inclusivity. OHA believes this will benefit the way pesticides are used and/or regulated on our ‘āina.

OHA respectfully asks that the committee consider adding a representative who can ensure Native Hawaiian farming and/or ecological practices are included in these critical discussions. Widespread Native Hawaiian participation in this pesticide advisory committee would be integral to achieving improvements in Native Hawaiian health and well-being by gaining insight into Native Hawaiian tradition knowledge and culture, while simultaneously elevating Native Hawaiian influence through potential agricultural development opportunities.



SB3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES
House Committee on Agriculture

Thus, OHA would like to offer an amendment to page 1 line 13 that can further strengthen the legislation by explicitly including a representative with expertise or consideration for Native Hawaiian perspectives:

§149A-51 Advisory committee. (a) There shall be an advisory committee on pesticides composed of but not limited to the chairperson, or the chairperson's designated representative, who shall head the committee and one representative each from the department of health, department of land and natural resources, University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, ~~sugar industry, pineapple industry,~~ coffee industry, diversified agriculture industry, Hawaii Farm Bureau [Federation], pesticide industry, structural pest control industry, an environmental organization, a citizen group, ~~and~~ a landscape professional, and an individual or organization who can provide knowledge of Native Hawaiian farming or ecological practices.

By embracing a more inclusive advisory committee structure, we take a crucial step toward fostering sustainable agriculture practices, protecting our environment, and safeguarding the health of our communities.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **ADVANCE** and **AMEND** bill SB3026. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3026 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3026 which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

There has been a significant reduction of the agricultural footprint of the sugar and pineapple industries since the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was established. The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has a representative on the advisory committee. Amending the membership of the advisory committee by replacing the sugar and pineapple industries with a representative from the coffee industry, which is among the top 3 most economically significant crops in the State, as well as adding a representative of diversified agriculture allows broader representation of commodities which would include the pineapple and sugar industries.

We support SB 3026 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 19, 2024, 1:34 pm

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

MARCH 20, 2024
10:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. SB 3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chairperson Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3026 relating to Pesticides. The bill replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Due to the exit of the sugar industry and the reduction of pineapple cultivation in the State the Department has had difficulty finding and retaining qualified individuals for both seats on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

As the coffee industry has recently seen impacts from pest pressures such as Coffee Leaf Rust and Coffee Berry Borer the Department supports the inclusion of coffee on to the committee. Diversified agriculture and minor crops make up a large portion of agricultural production in the State and should also have a seat on the committee. Diversified agriculture may also provide a different viewpoint than traditional agricultural producers and includes the sugar and pineapple industries, should those industries seek representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 20, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3026, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.

The purpose of the advisory committee is to advise and assist the Department of Agriculture in developing or revising pesticide laws and rules and to advise on pesticide problems. Membership on the committee is specific and broad-based. It includes industry and agency-nominated, well-vetted, Governor-appointed representatives with pesticide expertise from the Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Agriculture, industries that make or use pesticides, and stakeholder representatives from the community and an environmental organization.

The size of the committee must be limited to ensure that there is adequate representation of stakeholders to effectively accomplish the committee's work but not too many members to preclude meaningful engagement by each member.

Due to the loss of the sugar industry in Hawai'i, the dramatic decrease in pineapple production, and the rise in acreage and economic significance of the diversified agriculture and coffee industries, it is appropriate that the committee membership be statutorily updated accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for your continued support of Hawai'i farmers and ranchers.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

March 20, 2024

Subject: SB 3026, *Relating to Pesticides*

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

We at Hawaii Food+ Policy, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** in passing SB3026, which would replace representatives from sugar and pineapple to coffee and diversified agriculture industries for the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Due to the decline of businesses in both the sugar and pineapple industries in Hawai'i, and vice versa with the rise of coffee industries in the State, this action will be crucial in making the agriculture sector in Hawai'i that much more modernized.

We also support that Diversified Agriculture Industries may have a place on the Committee. Many of these products are unique to Hawaii while also making up a large amount of the State's agricultural production. Therefore, by having them on the committee, they have a chance to bring in a new viewpoint on the matter. Additionally, by also having a place for diversified agriculture industries will help acknowledge the production and harvesting of numerous crops that are vital to various cultures Hawai'i currently homes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify for this measure,

Kawika Kahiapo & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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.



LATE

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Date & Time
Mar 19, 2024, 1:34 pm

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India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

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Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB3026.**

The sugar and pineapple industries that once dominated the agricultural landscape in Hawaii, no longer represent the majority of agriculture in the islands. The representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries will bring a fresh perspective and invaluable expertise to the committee.

Hawaii Farmers Union seeks an amendment to also add a representative of our organization to this important body.

These members will have firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by farmers across various sectors, including the negative impacts of excessive pesticide use and the urgency to find alternative methods that are both effective and environmentally friendly.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

SB-3026

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:41:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; replacing representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.

LATE

SB-3026

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:42:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GOOD IDEA TO UPDATE.

MAHALO!