

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

**MARCH 14, 2025
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1304, SD2
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING**

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1304, SD2 relating to pesticide drift monitoring. The bill appropriates funding to the Department to continue a statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. The Department strongly supports this bill.

The Department, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, initiated the Pesticide Drift Monitoring Project in October 2023. Recruitment to fill post-docs and procurement of lab equipment were required to ensure the University has laboratory capacity to analyze any samples.

The Department is required to complete the Pesticide Drift Monitoring Project to be in compliance with the informal resolution negotiated under EPA Complaint No: 44RNO-16-R9. The Department must also complete the Pesticide Drift Monitoring Project to be in compliance with Act 045, SLH 2018.

The Department respectfully requests a revision to Page 2 lines 7 and 8 to "no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2029" as the report is not expected to be completed until 2028.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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
March 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1304 SD2 – RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1304 SD2 relating to pesticide drift monitoring which appropriates funding to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study.

The DOA in collaboration with University of Hawai'i at Mānoa CTAHR initiated a statewide pesticide drift monitoring project in 2023. Funding for two years from 2023 - 2024 was appropriated by the Legislature. CTAHR supports SB 1304 SD2 to ensure public health and safety with appropriate mitigation techniques and best management practices for agriculture and food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 1304 SD 2
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 14, 2025

10:00AM

Room 325

Dear Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides the following **COMMENTS** regarding SB 1304 SD 2 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. While OHA supports the intent of this measure, we echo the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action's (HAPA) recommendation for the legislature to act upon the abundance of data that already exists and take more concrete measures to protect our keiki in schools.

Children attending schools in Hawai'i are intended to be protected by a regulation that restricts the most drift-prone agricultural pesticides during normal school hours. Historically, this has not been the case. A cursory search of Hawai'i media revealed numerous episodes in which pesticides drifted to schools, affecting the health of hundreds of students and their teachers.¹ Children and teachers have the right to a safe environment while in school.

¹ Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawai'i's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (May 2015), at p. 37; 38, https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/hawaii_second-edition_corrected_67845.pdf

Pesticide exposure is linked to a wide range of health harms, including Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, bladder and colon cancers, Parkinson's disease, depression, and disrupting our hormonal or endocrine systems.² Children are more sensitive to the effects of pesticides exposure than adults³, and Native Hawaiians are disproportionately impacted by pesticide exposure.⁴ OHA concurs with HAPA, **SB 1304 SD 2 should be amended to include a provision requiring an independent consultant.** This will ensure the study, and its methodology, are informed by robust reporting data, and that efforts to expand protections for our most vulnerable populations are not undermined by poor execution.

OHA appreciates recent amendments which required the study to comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations, added a deadline for the study's conclusion and required a report to the Legislature, changed the appropriations from \$323,484 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$311,903 for fiscal year 2026-2027 to unspecified amounts, respectively, and changed the effective date to July 1, 2050 to facilitate further discussion on the measure. Mahalo nui for your consideration, and for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

² Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawai'i's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (May 2015), at p. 5, https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/hawaii_second-edition_corrected_67845.pdf

³ Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawai'i's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (May 2015), at p. 5, https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/hawaii_second-edition_corrected_67845.pdf

⁴ Lilian Dorka, Daria Neal, Joe Leonard, Jr. Ph.D., "Complaint Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, 40 C.F.R. Part 7, and 7 C.F.R. Part 15," Earthjustice (September 14, 2016), https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/complaint_0.pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



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TO: Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB1304 SD2, RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this measure. The act appropriates funding to the department of agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. We need accurate and real time data of pesticide use occurring near our schools to be able to measure the level of negative impact to our keiki. Our keiki are our most vulnerable and treasured members of our community that need to be protected.
2. Research proves, going back to 2019, that indicates the likely amount of carcinogenic drift from pesticide use, in central O‘ahu alone, was over 240,00 lbs. The research and data related to statewide pesticide drift needs to be updated and transparent so that community members know who is impacted by these toxic fumigants.
3. This data will better inform our decision making on all levels so that we can limit and mitigate pesticide drifts impacts on the environment and our public health and safety.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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March 14, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1304 SD2
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 1304 SD2 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study.

Our members and their children and grandchildren are your neighbors and friends who live in communities throughout the State. We are advocates for environmentally responsible pesticide use practices and we recognize the importance of conducting appropriate research to better understand potential pesticide air concentrations.

Air monitoring is a useful tool that can be part of the Pesticide Branch's continuous pesticide evaluation process, which includes its pre-registration risk analysis for Hawai'i-specific conditions, pesticide use education and outreach, RUP tracking, inspections, and regulatory enforcement. Evaluating the risk and impact, as well as the benefits of pesticide use in Hawai'i is important to inform any actions or mitigation measures needed to continue to protect people and the environment.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports evidence-based pesticide laws and regulations, along with a robust outreach and education program for all pesticide users, including the public.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers who have the honor of and responsibility for providing Hawai'i with its agricultural needs.



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Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawai'i 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. **HFU supports SB1304.**

By continuously monitoring pesticide drift, this bill aims to generate critical data that can help mitigate potential adverse effects on our communities, ensuring that pesticide use is managed wisely and safely. Expanding the scope of this monitoring effort to include areas surrounding farms and residential zones is a logical extension of this initiative. Pesticide drift does not adhere to man-made boundaries, and a broader monitoring network would offer a more holistic understanding of drift patterns across various land uses. This is essential for comprehensive risk management and for supporting sustainable farming practices that prioritize both productivity and community well-being.

Furthermore, incorporating a provision for public access to the data collected through these monitoring efforts would enhance transparency and trust among stakeholders. By involving the community in discussions about pesticide use and impacts, we can collaboratively work towards strengthening agricultural practices that coexist harmoniously with the health and safety of all residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) with Comments on: SB1304 SD2

Friday, March 14th, 2025 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

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

HAPA provides the following comments in regards to SB1304 SD2 which requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a drift monitoring study for schools in Hawaii.

HAPA supports the intent of this bill. We have spent a considerable amount of time analyzing the restricted use pesticide (RUP) use reporting data and reviewing the body of peer reviewed research/studies on the impacts of pesticide exposure. Our review of the data has indicated that schools in areas of heavy RUP usage in Hawaii may be exposed to drift on an ongoing basis and that surrounding communities may be exposed to off target drift and associated risks.

However, we have concerns with 1) with the lack of data available to inform this proposed study, and 2) the methodology and findings of the 2013 drift study conducted for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. If there is insufficient data and a poorly designed study, findings could provide a false sense of safety for residents who may in fact be chronically exposed. There is a long history of industry funded, short-term studies that falsely conclude that no threat or harm is occurring because they fail to examine the long-term chronic exposure and impacts. These unsupported studies are often utilized to undermine much needed public health protections.^{1 2 3 4}

HAPA recommends that SB1304 be amended to include a provision requiring an independent consultant. The findings of the University group, Li et al., who conducted the 2013 drift study [Final Project Report for Kauai Air Sampling Study]⁵ are poor and unsupported. A critique of the methodology and findings of the 2013 study by an EPA pesticide violation investigator, Dr Milt Clark, can be found in appendixes of the Joint Fact Finding Report: Pesticide Use by Large Agribusiness on Kauai⁶.

¹ <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/27082024/epa-pesticide-cancer-risk-research-regulation/>

² <https://www.panna.org/resources/corporate-science-spin/>

³ <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2024/10/industry-study-diminishes-organic-promotes-integrated-pest-management-pushes-pesticides-in-regenerative-ag/>

⁴ <https://usrtk.org/monsanto/glyphosate-science-denial/>

⁵ <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Waimea-Canyon-Air-Study.pdf>

⁶ <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/special-reports/>



How Gaps in Current RUP Reporting Requirements Undermine Study Integrity:

There is a lack of geospatial specificity for large TMK's where RUP's are applied. There is also a lack of transparency in terms of when pesticides are applied. California requires reporting within a square mile. Many of the long-term epidemiological studies that have found conclusive evidence of health impacts from pesticide exposure have been able to reach this level of inquiry because they are long-term in nature, and they have geographically specific enough data to arrive at these findings credibly. The lack of geospatial specificity in our current reporting requirements do not allow for credible peer reviewed studies.

The Importance of Study Methodology

There are an abundance of long-term peer reviewed studies which have determined health effects from pesticide exposure. These studies are cited in several expert testimony submitted for a recent hearing for SB352, a bill to increase RUP buffer zones around schools and parks. (see pages 26-28; 39-45; 78-80).⁷ Several of the studies referenced were conducted over decades, thus taking into account the long-term chronic effects of exposure. Importantly, these studies and their methodology were informed by robust reporting data. Poorly conducted studies can provide communities with false assurances and ultimately undermine the need for more robust data and protections.

While HAPA supports the rigorous study of the public health and environmental impacts of pesticide exposure via drift, our preference would be for the legislature to act upon the abundance of data that already exists and take more concrete measures to protect our keiki who are the most vulnerable to pesticide exposure as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.⁸

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

⁷https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/Testimony/SB352_TESTIMONY_AEN_01-29-25_.PDF

⁸<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/130/6/e1757/30399/Pesticide-Exposure-in-Children?autologincheck=redirected>

SB-1304-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:38:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support

SB-1304-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:32:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

SB-1304-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:38:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.