

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
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 7, 2025
1:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1304
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

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

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

The Department, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii'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 a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer and a liquid chromatograph mass spectrometer were required to ensure the University has laboratory capacity to analyze any samples taken during the project.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



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TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbet M. "Tim" Richards III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

DATE: February 5, 2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB1304, 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 240,000 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.



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

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

Friday, February 7th, 2025 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA provides the following comments in regards to SB1304 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 unsupportable. 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 Kauai ⁶.

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://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/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 'Respectfully,' text.

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>



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 7, 2025 at 1:01 p.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1304 – RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1304 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 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (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 which appropriates additional funds to DOA to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study 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.

SB-1304

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:35:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly Support

SB-1304

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:19:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-1304

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:05:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Godfrey Akaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to monitor pesticides or chemical drift from application location. Mahalo.