
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH TO CONDUCT A JOINT STUDY OF THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-
TERM EFFECTS OF CHLORPYRIFOS ON FARMWORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, in November 2016, the United States Environmental
2 Protection Agency (EPA) released a revised human health risk
3 assessment for chlorpyrifos, a chemical pesticide, that
4 confirmed that there are no safe uses of chlorpyrifos; and
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6 WHEREAS, the EPA found that:
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- 8 (1) All food and drinking water exposures to chlorpyrifos
9 exceed safe levels;
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- 11 (2) Chlorpyrifos pesticide drift reaches unsafe levels at
12 three hundred feet from a treated field's edge;
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- 14 (3) Chlorpyrifos is found at unsafe levels in the air at
15 schools, homes, and communities in agricultural areas;
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- 17 (4) All workers who mix and apply chlorpyrifos are exposed
18 to unsafe levels of the pesticide even with maximum
19 personal protective equipment and engineering controls
20 in place;
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- 22 (5) Field workers are allowed to re-enter fields within
23 one to five days after pesticide spraying, but unsafe
24 exposures continue on average for eighteen days after
25 applications; and
26
- 27 (6) Chlorpyrifos is acutely toxic and associated with
28 neurodevelopmental damage to children; and
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30 WHEREAS, children, farm workers, and residents in
31 agricultural communities are uniquely vulnerable to
32 chlorpyrifos; and



1 WHEREAS, on November 3, 2016, the EPA issued a
2 groundbreaking report, "*Chlorpyrifos Revised Human Health Risk*
3 *Assessment*," laying out the evidence that the pesticide can
4 cause intelligence deficits and attention, memory, and motor
5 problems in children; and

6
7 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2017, the California Office of
8 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment added chlorpyrifos to the
9 list of chemicals known to the State of California to cause
10 reproductive and developmental toxicity, according to experts on
11 California's Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant
12 Identification Committee, commonly known as Proposition 65; and

13
14 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2018, all California businesses
15 with ten or more employees will be required to provide a clear
16 and reasonable warning before knowingly exposing anyone to
17 chlorpyrifos above a certain level determined by California's
18 Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986; and

19
20 WHEREAS, according to the January 14, 2017, article by
21 Sharon Lerner in *The Intercept*, "In 2014, the first and most
22 comprehensive look at the environmental causes of autism and
23 developmental delay, known as the CHARGE study, found that the
24 nearby application of agricultural pesticides greatly increases
25 the risk of autism. Women who lived less than a mile from fields
26 where chlorpyrifos was sprayed during their second trimesters of
27 pregnancy... had their chances of giving birth to an autistic
28 child more than triple"; and

29
30 WHEREAS, chlorpyrifos is among the pesticides which have
31 shown to be potent teratogens which cause long lasting permanent
32 brain injury to fetuses, making pregnant farmworkers
33 particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pesticide; now,
34 therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2018, that the Department of Agriculture and the Department
39 of Health are requested to jointly conduct a study of the short-
40 term and long-term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers, with
41 special and focused attention on the work environment and



1 control of the environment for pregnant or possibly pregnant
2 farmworkers, including consideration of:

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- 4 (1) Information provided directly to the Department of
- 5 Agriculture from its consultants and experts in the
- 6 development and implementation of any chlorpyrifos
- 7 farmworker studies;
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- 9 (2) The raw data used in the requested studies;
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- 11 (3) The availability of appropriate medical services for
- 12 exposed workers;
- 13
- 14 (4) The number of farmworkers who were known to be
- 15 pregnant while employed as farmworkers and the record
- 16 of the levels of exposure for the pregnant farm worker
- 17 and any children;
- 18
- 19 (5) Recommendations as to whether other state agencies
- 20 should participate in this study and whether a new
- 21 principal state department should be established with
- 22 subject matter jurisdiction over environmental issues;
- 23 and
- 24
- 25 (6) Any other information relevant to the subject of the
- 26 requested study; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
29 and the Department of Health are requested to submit a report of
30 the joint study, including findings, recommendations, and
31 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
36 the Board of Agriculture, and Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 09 2018

