

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
5

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;
16
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;
21
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



1 WHEREAS, children, farm workers, and residents in
2 agricultural communities are uniquely vulnerable to
3 chlorpyrifos; and
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5 WHEREAS, on November 3, 2016, the EPA issued a
6 groundbreaking report, "*Chlorpyrifos Revised Human Health Risk*
7 *Assessment*," laying out the evidence that the pesticide can
8 cause intelligence deficits and attention, memory, and motor
9 problems in children; and
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11 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2017, the California Office of
12 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment added chlorpyrifos to the
13 list of chemicals known to the State of California to cause
14 reproductive and developmental toxicity, according to experts on
15 California's Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant
16 Identification Committee, commonly known as Proposition 65; and
17

18 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2018, all California businesses
19 with ten or more employees will be required to provide a clear
20 and reasonable warning before knowingly exposing anyone to
21 chlorpyrifos above a certain level determined by California's
22 Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986; and
23

24 WHEREAS, according to the January 14, 2017, article by
25 Sharon Lerner in *The Intercept*, "In 2014, the first and most
26 comprehensive look at the environmental causes of autism and
27 developmental delay, known as the CHARGE study, found that the
28 nearby application of agricultural pesticides greatly increases
29 the risk of autism. Women who lived less than a mile from fields
30 where chlorpyrifos was sprayed during their second trimesters of
31 pregnancy... had their chances of giving birth to an autistic
32 child more than triple"; and
33

34 WHEREAS, chlorpyrifos is among the pesticides which have
35 shown to be potent teratogens which cause long lasting permanent
36 brain injury to fetuses, making pregnant farmworkers
37 particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pesticide; now,
38 therefore,
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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
42 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



1 Agriculture and the Department of Health are requested to
2 jointly conduct a study of the short-term and long-term effects
3 of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers, with special and focused
4 attention on the work environment and control of the environment
5 for pregnant or possibly pregnant farmworkers, including
6 consideration of:

- 7
8 (1) Information provided directly to the Department of
9 Agriculture from its consultants and experts in the
10 development and implementation of any chlorpyrifos
11 farmworker studies;
- 12
13 (2) The raw data used in the requested studies;
- 14
15 (3) The availability of appropriate medical services for
16 exposed workers;
- 17
18 (4) The number of farmworkers who were known to be
19 pregnant while employed as farmworkers and the record
20 of the levels of exposure for the pregnant farm worker
21 and any children;
- 22
23 (5) Recommendations as to whether other state agencies
24 should participate in this study and whether a new
25 principal state department should be established with
26 subject matter jurisdiction over environmental issues;
27 and
- 28
29 (6) Any other information relevant to the subject of the
30 requested study; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
33 and the Department of Health are requested to submit a report of
34 the joint study, including findings, recommendations, and
35 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this



1 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
2 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

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