

MAR 09 2018

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# 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;
  - 13
  - 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;
  - 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  
4

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  
10

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,  
39

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;
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- 13 (2) The raw data used in the requested studies;
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- 15 (3) The availability of appropriate medical services for  
 16 exposed workers;
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- 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
- 31

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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