

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FEBRUARY 12, 2024
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. HB2337
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chairperson Gates, Vice-chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2337 relating to Pesticides. The bill replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Due to the exit of the sugar industry and the reduction of pineapple cultivation in the State the Department has had difficulty finding and retaining qualified individuals for both seats on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

As the coffee industry has recently seen impacts from pest pressures such as Coffee Leaf Rust and Coffee Berry Borer the Department supports the inclusion of coffee on to the committee. Diversified agriculture and minor crops make up a large portion of agricultural production in the State and should also have a seat on the committee. Diversified agriculture may also provide a different viewpoint than traditional agricultural producers and includes the sugar and pineapple industries, should those industries seek representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HB 2337
RELATING TO PESTICIDES
House Committee on Agriculture

February 12, 2024

2:00 pm

Conference Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 2337, which would propose amendments to Section 149A-51 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, focusing on the composition and functions of the advisory committee on pesticides. We also **respectfully request an amendment** to further strengthen this proposal. OHA recognizes the importance of effective pesticide management for the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our unique ecosystems.

The shift from sugar and pineapple industries to coffee and diversified agriculture is a crucial step towards modernizing our approach to agriculture in Hawai'i. As our agricultural landscape evolves, it is imperative that our advisory committees reflect these changes to provide effective guidance and oversight. Coffee and diversified agriculture represent sectors that are rapidly growing and hold significant economic potential for our state. By including representatives from these industries on the advisory committee, we can ensure that their unique challenges and perspectives are properly addressed.

A diverse advisory committee, as envisioned in SB2546, ensures a broader spectrum of perspectives, expertise, and experiences, contributing to the development of more effective and equitable pesticide laws and rules. We appreciate the way this legislation provides modernization and expanded inclusivity. OHA believes this will benefit the way pesticides are used and/or regulated on our 'āina.

OHA respectfully asks that the committee consider adding a representative who can ensure Native Hawaiian farming and/or ecological practices are included in these critical discussions. Widespread Native Hawaiian participation in this pesticide advisory committee would be integral to achieving improvements in Native Hawaiian health and well-being by gaining insight into Native Hawaiian tradition knowledge and culture, while simultaneously elevating Native Hawaiian influence through potential agricultural development opportunities.



HB1928
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION
House Committee on Water & Land

Thus, OHA would like to offer an amendment to page 1 line 13 that can further strengthen the legislation by explicitly including a representative with expertise or consideration for Native Hawaiian perspectives:

§149A-51 Advisory committee. (a) There shall be an advisory committee on pesticides composed of but not limited to the chairperson, or the chairperson's designated representative, who shall head the committee and one representative each from the department of health, department of land and natural resources, University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, ~~sugar industry, pineapple industry,~~ coffee industry, diversified agriculture industry, Hawaii Farm Bureau [Federation], pesticide industry, structural pest control industry, an environmental organization, a citizen group, **and** a landscape professional, and an individual or organization who can provide knowledge of Native Hawaiian farming or ecological practices.

By embracing a more inclusive advisory committee structure, we take a crucial step toward fostering sustainable agriculture practices, protecting our environment, and safeguarding the health of our communities.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **ADVANCE** and **AMEND** bill HB2337. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



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February 12, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2337
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 HB 2337, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

The purpose of the advisory committee is to advise and assist the Department of Agriculture in developing or revising pesticide laws and rules and to advise on pesticide problems. Membership on the committee is specific and broad-based. It includes industry and agency-nominated, well-vetted, Governor-appointed representatives with pesticide expertise from the Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Agriculture, industries that make or use pesticides, and stakeholder representatives from the community and an environmental organization.

The size of the committee must be limited to ensure that there is adequate representation of stakeholders to effectively accomplish the committee's work but not too many members to preclude meaningful engagement by each member.

Due to the loss of the sugar industry in Hawai'i, the dramatic decrease in pineapple production, and the rise in acreage and economic significance of the diversified agriculture and coffee industries, it is appropriate that the committee membership be statutorily updated accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for your continued support of Hawai'i farmers and ranchers.



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Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii 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. **HFUU supports HB2337.**

The sugar and pineapple industries that once dominated the agricultural landscape in Hawaii, no longer represent the majority of agriculture in the islands. The representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries will bring a fresh perspective and invaluable expertise to the committee. They have firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by farmers across various sectors, including the negative impacts of excessive pesticide use and the urgency to find alternative methods that are both effective and environmentally friendly.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-2337

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:52:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO PESTICIDES.

Replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.



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 and Food Systems
Monday, February 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2337 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2337 which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

There has been a significant reduction of the agricultural footprint of the sugar and pineapple industries since the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was established. The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has a representative on the advisory committee. Amending the membership of the advisory committee by replacing the sugar and pineapple industries with a representative from the coffee industry, which is among the top 3 most economically significant crops in the State, as well as adding a representative of diversified agriculture allows broader representation of commodities which would include the pineapple and sugar industries.

We support HB 2337 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.