
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PESTICIDE BUFFER ZONES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that certain pesticides
2 used in agriculture and landscaping are proven to pose a
3 significant risk to public health, particularly to children who
4 are more vulnerable to environmental toxins while their bodies
5 are still developing. Research has shown that pesticides can
6 interfere with brain development, leading to cognitive deficits,
7 behavioral problems, and learning disabilities. Studies have
8 linked pesticide exposure to an increased risk of attention
9 deficit hyperactivity disorder and other developmental
10 disorders. Additionally, short-term exposure to pesticides can
11 cause symptoms like nausea, dizziness, headaches, and skin or
12 eye irritation, while long-term exposure has been linked to more
13 serious conditions, such as cancers like non-Hodgkin lymphoma
14 and neurological diseases like Parkinson's disease.

15 The legislature further finds that compelling evidence
16 exists that underscores the importance of reducing children's
17 exposure to pesticides, particularly in environments such as



1 schools. Pesticide buffer zones around schools are an important
2 tool used to mitigate these risks by minimizing exposure and
3 protecting students and communities from the health hazards
4 associated with exposure to pesticide drift, which occurs when
5 pesticides are unintentionally carried away from the targeted
6 area of application by wind or other environmental means to a
7 non-targeted area. Although Hawaii has an established school
8 buffer zone of one hundred feet, studies have found this is
9 inadequate to provide protection for school children from
10 pesticide drift.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Increase the buffer zone around schools from one
13 hundred feet to one-half mile; and
14 (2) Allow the use of restricted use pesticides within the
15 buffer zone as part of invasive species control
16 conducted by the department of agriculture or invasive
17 species committees organized under the university of
18 Hawaii Pacific cooperative studies unit.

19 SECTION 2. Section 149A-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:



1 "[~~+~~]~~S149A-28~~[+] **Buffer zones.** Beginning January 1, 2019,
2 no person shall apply a restricted use pesticide on or within
3 [~~one hundred feet~~] one-half mile of a school property during
4 normal school hours; provided that this section shall not apply
5 to [~~whole~~]:

6 (1) Whole structure fumigation; or

7 (2) Invasive species control conducted by the department
8 of agriculture or any invasive species committee
9 organized under the university of Hawaii Pacific
10 cooperative studies unit;

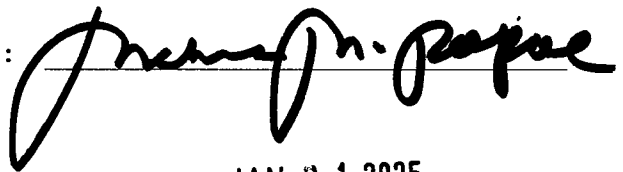
11 provided further that if this section is determined to conflict
12 with any pesticide application information listed on the
13 pesticide label, the more restrictive provision shall apply."

14 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 21 2025



H.B. NO. 873

Report Title:

Restricted Use Pesticides; Schools; Buffer Zone; Exemptions;
Invasive Species Control

Description:

Increases the buffer zone for restricted use pesticides around schools to one-half mile. Allows the use of restricted use pesticides within the buffer zone as part of invasive species control conducted by the Department of Agriculture or invasive species committees organized under the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit.

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