

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2499

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2103
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2103 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PESTICIDES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides applied; and
- (2) Beginning January 1, 2027, establish a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Green Party of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and thirty-five individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Pest Control Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; CropLife America; Hawaii Crop Improvement Association; Sugarland Farms, Inc.; and one individual.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that pesticide drift, when aerosolized chemical pesticides travel to adjacent areas after its application, has been demonstrated to cause acute health effects, particularly in children. Restricted use pesticides, which are prohibited for use by the general public, have been found to be particularly harmful to humans. This measure, which clarifies standards and further regulates the use of restricted use pesticides, aims to protect communities and children from the neurological and acute health effects of pesticides.

Your Committee acknowledges the concerns raised in testimony by the Department of Health that restricted use pesticides are necessary for the operations of the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health. Further, your Committee notes concerns that licensed pesticide applicators already use best management practices to minimize exposure. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address these concerns.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Exempting the Department of Health and licensed pest control operators from the restricted use pesticides one-half mile buffer zone requirement; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2103, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2103, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB2103	Committee Referral: AEN, CPN	Date: 02/11/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)		X		
DECOITE, Lynn		X		
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
TOTAL	3	2	—	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**