

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB2103
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date, Time, and Room Number: 2/06/26, 3:01 p.m.; Room Number 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments for SB2103.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division ("EHSD"), Vector Control
4 Branch ("VCB") provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department:

5 SB2103 Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use consistent units
6 of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides
7 ("RUPs") applied. The bill also establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around
8 schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks beginning 1/01/2027.

9 The Department is concerned that the new requirements will prevent the VCB from
10 being able to use RUPs in certain areas during vector-borne disease abatement due to the
11 buffer zone requirement. If no exemptions are provided to the Department, schools and state
12 and county parks may not be treated with the most effective possible pesticides during vector-
13 borne disease outbreaks and may become harborage areas for vectors to proliferate, ultimately
14 reducing or nullifying the effectiveness of localized treatments. To reduce the likelihood of
15 vector-borne disease transmission and localized outbreaks, the Department requests an
16 exemption from the buffer zone requirement.

1 The Department is highly judicious and targeted with the application of any pesticides,
2 however, the ability to use the full complement of legal pesticides, including RUPs, in the event
3 of a vector-borne disease outbreak, may be important to effectively respond to and reduce the
4 spread of vector-borne diseases. This bill provides an exemption to wood preservative pesticide
5 applications from the buffer zone. The VCB respectfully requests to be added to the exemption.
6 The Department has offered the amendment below.

7 The testimony provided is specific to the issue of buffer zones and does not support or
8 oppose other aspects of the measure.

9 **Offered Amendments:** The VCB respectfully requests the following; requested statutory
10 material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken, requested new statutory material is
11 underscored:

12 “~~[[§149A-28]]~~ **Buffer zones.** Beginning January 1, ~~[2019,]~~ 2027, no person shall apply
13 a restricted use pesticide on or within ~~[one hundred feet]~~ one-half mile of a school property
14 during normal school hours [;] or a state or county public park; provided that this section shall
15 not apply to whole structure fumigation [;] or pesticides specifically used for the purposes of
16 treating and preserving wood; or pesticides specifically used by the Department of Health for
17 the purposes of rapid response and control of vectors.”

18

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026
3:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2103
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2103 relating to pesticides. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public and establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for restricted use pesticides (RUPs) around schools and state and county public parks on January 1, 2027. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity ("Department") respectfully offers the following comments on this bill.

As of reporting year 2023, the Department has updated its reporting units for the public summary report to pounds of active ingredients and percentage of active ingredients. This was based on previous bills and requests by stakeholders.

The Department recommends a later implementation date to allow outreach to applicators regarding the expansion of the school buffer zone. This ensures applicators are aware of the new requirements and allows time for impacted users to comply with the new law.

With the passage of Act 45, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, and the enactment of one hundred foot buffer zones around schools, the Department found unintended consequences. Water treatment plants which used chlorine gas, which is an RUP pesticide, could not operate wells during school hours. Additionally, there are no exemptions to use RUPs to control invasive species or to address any public health concerns that require the use of RUPs.

The Department is concerned that there are no time restrictions for the buffer zones around parks, unlike the schools. As such, RUPs would not be able to be used within a half mile of a park at any time. This would produce devastating consequences to our state's infrastructure and potentially to the quality and safety of drinking water.

The restriction of all RUPs, with the exception of the usages listed in the bill, does not serve the purpose of Hawaii Revised Statutes §149A-28 to address drift, as certain formulations such as granules and rodent bait blocks, application methods, such as injections, and use types such as use in a laboratory setting have little to no potential to drift.

The Department recommends inclusion of reasonable time restrictions for parks, similar to schools if buffer zones are to be expanded.

In addition, the Department has initiated some preliminary analysis. The following are the number of agricultural tax map keys that used RUPs in 2024 and will be affected by the increased buffer zones:

- Kaua'i – 15 parcels
- O'ahu – 58 parcels
- Maui – 21 parcels
- Hawai'i – 48 parcels

These parcels do not include agricultural parcels which may decide to use RUP products. This analysis is also based solely on agricultural RUP use, and not on other uses such as on ornamental, turf, and golf courses.

Should buffer zones be increased, the Department recommends the need to clarify what pesticide formulations, application methods, and usages are or are not allowable based on their potential to drift.

Finally, the Department is currently involved in conducting a drift monitoring study, as required by Act 45, SLH 2018. Since that study is intended to determine whether drift is taking place, and the impact of drift is occurring within schools, it would be prudent to wait for the results of that study to determine the drift potential in Hawai'i, rather than using distances provided from mainland counterparts with vastly different geography, ecology, and use patterns. The report is expected to be completed in 2028.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 6, 2026
3:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2103
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Senate Bill 2103 mandates the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use consistent measurement units in its public summary of restricted-use pesticide applications. Starting 1/1/2027, it creates a half-mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours, as well as around state and county public parks. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides the following comments.**

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), restricted-use products (RUPs) are not available for purchase or use by the public. RUPs can cause serious harm to the environment and injuries to applicators or bystanders without additional restrictions. The "Restricted Use" classification limits a product to use by a certified applicator or someone under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.

The EPA approves pesticides for specific pests and conditions. For instance, "Pesticide A," approved for use on apples, cannot be legally applied to grapes, and an insecticide labeled for "outdoor use" may not be legally used inside a building. Sometimes, the use of a registered pesticide might be limited to applicators with special training. Restrictions on the use of each product depend on factors like the product itself, the application site and method, and its potential risks.

The Department supports the safe use of any toxicant and requests an exemption be added to this bill for invasive species control by State agencies and its agents.

Other points that could use clarification include the rationale for extending the buffer to 2640 feet (half a mile) and whether the buffer might be applied to other locations, such as elderly healthcare facilities. The buffer radius could cover a large area that the Department recommends mapping to fully consider the impact of the proposed ban. The Department supports science-based decisions and would appreciate a reference to additional information on this distance and the specific facility type.

The Department notes that not all RUPs are sprayed. Many are in solid form and are unlikely to travel far from where they are applied. For example, many rodenticides come in solid pellets or blocks and are often used in bait boxes. Even though some rodenticides are RUPs, they do not drift. It is better to consider that the buffer size depends on the type and form of application. In other words, the buffer could be larger for liquid sprays, smaller for solids, and even smaller for solids used in bait boxes where drift is unlikely.

The Department supports the safe use of any toxicant. Department staff are well-trained and take their responsibilities seriously. However, invasive species do not recognize land ownership boundaries, and the Department or its agents need access to areas where invasive species may be present.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Officers

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State President



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North Shore, O'ahu

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Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawai'i 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. **HFU supports SB2103.**

Requiring the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use consistent units of measurement in reporting pesticide use ensures transparency and clarity. This change will facilitate better understanding among all stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, and the community, of the extent and impact of pesticide usage across the state. Consistent reporting empowers us with the information needed to make informed decisions that support sustainable agriculture while protecting our natural ecosystems.

The establishment of a one-half mile buffer zone around schools and public parks during school hours is a precautionary measure that safeguards children and families from potential exposure to harmful pesticides. Such a buffer zone reduces the risk of inadvertent exposure to restricted-use pesticides, ensuring that public spaces remain safe and welcoming for all.

Farmers in Hawaii are invested in nurturing the land responsibly, and with appropriate guidelines like those outlined in SB2103, the agricultural sector can continue to thrive harmoniously alongside our communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304

Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Senate Bill 2103 – Restricted Use Pesticides; Buffer Zones; Measurement

Hearing: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
Date: February 6, 2026
Time: 3:01 PM

Submitted by: Hawaii Pest Control Association

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Pest Control Association submits this testimony in opposition to SB 2103, which would establish a one-half mile buffer zone for restricted use pesticide applications around schools during normal school hours and around state and county public parks beginning January 1, 2027.

While the Association supports clear and consistent reporting standards, the proposed buffer zones are overly broad and not grounded in science-based exposure risk analysis. A one-half mile buffer would effectively prohibit pest control services across large portions of densely populated areas, including residential neighborhoods adjacent to schools and parks.

Pest control services near schools and parks are essential to managing pests that pose direct risks to children and the public, including mosquitoes, ants, rodents, and stinging insects. Restricting access during normal hours could delay treatments and increase health and safety risks.

Licensed applicators already use best management practices, time-of-day restrictions, targeted application methods, and integrated pest management strategies to minimize exposure. SB 2103 does not distinguish between different application methods, formulations, or risk levels.

The Hawaii Pest Control Association urges the Legislature to defer SB 2103 or explicitly exempt licensed pest control applicators operating under existing regulatory frameworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Emmanuel Zibakalam



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 6, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2103
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:01 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 respectfully opposes SB 2103, which specifically and unfairly targets farmers and ranchers, but not other RUP users by greatly expanding the current buffer zones on use to over twenty-five times further than what the law is now AND extending the buffer zone to include areas within a half a mile around state and county public parks, any time of day or night.

As active community members, our primary focus is on the safety and health of our families, our employees, and our communities as we produce the food and other products that residents and visitors need and enjoy. **We support evidence-based pesticide laws and regulations, along with appropriate enforcement and penalties for violations.**

The proposed mandates in SB 2103 impose bans on farmers' use of necessary crop protection tools without providing a clear, demonstrable benefit to public health or environmental safety. Any amendments to pesticide regulations should prioritize practicality and fairness while maintaining accountability and transparency. The public and State leadership want more local food production. They are beginning to fully recognize that invasive species have taken over our State and must be controlled; however, many do not comprehend that farmers have been dealing with these destructive imported species for decades and it is a constant battle. **Measures like this will make it impossible for farmers to continue to farm.**

Health Study does not indicate need for expanded buffer zones

A study of over 89,000 farmers who use pesticides, and their spouses is relevant to this discussion since the health of the pesticide users and spouses would likely indicate how pesticides may affect disease risk. The Agricultural Health Study (a collaborative effort

of the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) is the largest, longest (over 25 years) and most referenced study of cancer and other health outcomes of farmers who use pesticides.

A key finding is that farmers have lower rates of disease compared to the rest of the population.

Why does this bill target agriculture?

SB 2103 is especially troubling because it targets agriculture – making farmers look bad – while failing to consider some important facts.

- There have been no recent reported incidents of pesticide issues around schools that would justify expansion of the current restrictions.
- The bill focuses on farming operations' use of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) but ignores the evidence about pesticide-related incidents.

Here's what the data shows: of all documented pesticide-related incidents at schools in Hawaii, **none** were caused by the farming operations targeted in this bill. Of all poisoning incidents involving children in Hawaii, the vast majority happen inside a home, not because of a nearby farming operation. More than a dozen reports have studied pesticide residue in air and water samples across the islands. They show no indication that Hawaii's farmers are posing any significant risk to the environment.

Who uses RUPs?

In fact, the combined use of RUPs by farms in Hawaii is a fraction of that used by non-farmers. The large majority of restricted use pesticides sold in Hawaii is used by public agencies and non-agricultural businesses to protect public health, and to protect private residences, commercial facilities and other property from termites. However, for some unexplained reason, the current restrictions and those of this bill target agriculture.

Existing Laws Already Address Drift:

Current regulations mandate that pesticide users prevent drift, with violations enforceable under State and federal law. The DAB actively enforces these regulations and investigates any suspected drift violations.

- Drift prevention is already the applicator's responsibility, regardless of the distance or pesticide type.
- Federal and state regulations establish an Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ), which prohibits applicators from applying pesticides in areas where people are present. The AEZ distance depends on the application type and is set at either 25 or 100 feet. This ensures public safety without unnecessarily burdening agricultural operations.

Pesticides are necessary tools

In Hawaii, a primary State goal is to become more self-sufficient, especially with regard to food production. However, this goal is proving difficult to achieve because of our year-long perfect climate for pests and disease, and the continuous influx of near impossible-to-control noxious and invasive species that make farming here a constant battle.

Pesticides are among the necessary tools that farmers use to minimize damage and loss of their crops.

No justification for expanding the buffer zone

Expanding the buffer zone to one-half mile unfairly penalizes farmers, reduces usable agricultural land, and exacerbates food insecurity in Hawaii. Any amendments to pesticide regulations should prioritize practicality, fairness, and science-based decision-making while maintaining accountability and transparency.

We respectfully ask our leaders across the state to please set aside unjustified legislation that discourages farming, and instead, support laws and policies that will strengthen agriculture's foundation in Hawaii.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers who look forward to providing more of Hawaii's agricultural needs.



Testimony from Scott Dahlman, Senior Director Government Affairs, CropLife America

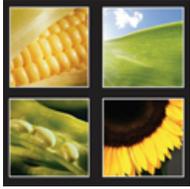
Testimony in Opposition to SB 2103 – Relating to Pesticides
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, Feb. 6, 3:01 pm, rm. 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard and members of the committee,

CropLife America (CLA) is the national association representing manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of pesticides products used in agriculture production. We support and promote scientific-based policy in the regulation of pesticide products at both the state and federal level. We are in opposition to SB 2103 – specifically the buffer zone mandate.

Act 179 which was signed into law in 2025 appropriates over \$600,000 from the the Pesticide Use Revolving Fund to the Department of Agriculture to continue their Statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. Per the committee report, the “measure supports the timely collection of accurate data to determine whether and how Hawaii’s children are impacted by off-target pesticide drift. We applaud the legislature’s support of the study and look forward to their findings.

Mahalo for your time.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SB2103 – In Opposition
Relating to Pesticides
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026
Time: 3:01 PM
Place: Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition to SB2103**, which requires 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 establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks.

HCIA's opposition is to the provisions of the bill related to the half-mile buffer zone. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already regulates the use of pesticides to protect the environment, applicators, and community. Based on scientific research and data, pesticide labels will require applicators to use buffers when necessary. The half-mile buffer zone proposed in this bill is not based on science.

The negative impacts of a half-mile buffer zone would be significant for local agriculture. It would reduce a farmer's ability to maximize their property to grow food. For smaller farms, this could represent a sizable portion of their land. Proposals like half-mile buffer zones just create unnecessary additional hardship and disincentives to enter into or grow Hawaii's agriculture industry.

Act 45 already put into law a 100-foot buffer and this is workable for farmers. We ask the committee to defer a bill that only makes conditions more difficult for our local agriculture producers, especially when scientific data does not support the proposal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our testimony in opposition.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

SUGARLAND FARMS, INC.
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

SB2103 Pesticides
Sen AEN Hearing – 3:01 PM
February 6, 2026
Testimony By: Jonathan Jefts

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am Jonathan Jefts, Manager of Sugarland Farms, Inc. Our family farms on Oahu and Molokai grow approximately 1 million pounds of import replacement produce weekly. These crops include bananas, green bell peppers, cabbages, Chinese cabbages, cucumbers, and several varieties of tomatoes and watermelons.

We respectfully oppose SB2103, which proposes a consistent unit of measurement for active RUP ingredients and requires changing the 100-foot buffer zone to a one-half-mile buffer zone for schools and parks. We note that SB2103 exempts the use of wood treatment from the buffer zones. Application of RUP restrictions and reporting should be applied fairly among all industries, and not specifically to agriculture.

As a commercial agricultural business, we use the tools of Integrated Pest Management, general and restricted use pesticides that include organic pesticides when necessary to grow produce that is competitive with imported mainland or international produce. We use pesticides registered by the US EPA, which have been vetted for safety and ensure the protection of communities, farm workers and sensitive populations. We follow federal and state requirements for application and reporting.

Oppose Expansion of Buffer Zones Near School Properties, State and County Parks:

Expanding the buffer zone from 100 feet to 2,640 feet (half a mile) can lead to the taking of active agricultural production lands and increase local food insecurity. We ask for due diligence in mapping how much productive ag lands will be lost from the collective proposed buffer zones of 2,640 miles (SB2713 and SB2103) The loss of farming with responsible and legally approved general and restricted use pesticides due to buffer zones and the prohibition of pesticide application may make Hawaii-grown produce non-competitive with imported mainland and international produce. It raises the question of who compensates the farmer for the taking of land in production.

We suggest that instead of increasing the distance of buffer zones near schools, State and County Parks, consideration should be given to pesticide applications made when schools or parks are not in session, or activities are not taking place, and when wind conditions are low and can be combined with hooded-equipment sprayers, berms and vegetative barriers to minimize light and noise. We have used these types of practices near residential areas without any complaints.

Bad actors, those not in compliance with pesticide applications, should be caught and face the consequences, and have the opportunity to be educated on appropriate pesticide applications. Adverse policies and laws should not restrict the majority of farmers who comply. Sufficient resources for DOA inspectors with the flexibility to conduct site visits in the evening, on weekends, and on holidays during daytime hours are needed because farmers are working those hours

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:55:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, a parent, and a human being, we write today to offer our STRONG Support for SB2103. These pesticides cannot be washed off the hands or bodies of our keiki. These pesticides start cell division at one part per trillion. That is how cancer begins. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas. Again as an agricultural worker I see firsthand what these pesticides do to our communities. 100' buffer zone does even begin to offer any protection to our keiki. A one mile buffer zone would show the public that you are listening to your constituents. Better yet a complete Ban of RUP would be even better. We are asking for a half mile , how about you give us a mile.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure. Any exposure is too much.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauiilo



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) **Strongly Supports: SB 2103**

Friday, February 6th, 2024 3:01 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB 2103, which requires 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 used. Establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools and state and county public parks.

The buffer zone proposed in SB 2103 will provide a buffer between children in school and the use of highly toxic Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) that is supported by peer-reviewed epidemiological research. This measure aims to provide a small layer of protection for Hawai'i's children from the potential impacts of highly toxic RUPs drifting through their schools by increasing RUP buffer zones schools from 100 feet to ½ mile during school hours and around parks where our keiki recreate.

Despite mounting evidence of the dangers even more common general use pesticides, such as RoundUp/Glyphosate, have on children's health¹; **this measure would not impact any general use pesticide application or provide buffers for use**. This measure only applies to the State listed class of highly hazardous toxic pesticides that are already restricted in Hawai'i (RUPs).

Background

HAPA was founded in response to community members living near large agrochemical fields asking for the right to know what pesticides are being used adjacent to their homes, schools, waterways and other sensitive areas. After over a decade-long effort to provide residents with clear information on what they may be exposed to, the implementation of Act 45 still has not provided communities with that information.

We applaud the legislature and the Ige Administration for taking the important first step of establishing 100 foot RUP buffer zones around schools during school hours in 2018

by passing Act 45 and starting to require self reporting along with the ban on Chlorpyrifos. However, an abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for extending these buffer zones to ensure even greater protections for Hawaii's children as well as school teachers and staff.

¹ Evsliin, Lee MD (2021) Breakfast at Monsanto's



It is worth noting that although California has enacted similar legislation requiring ¼ mile pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas had originally advocated for 1 mile buffer zones due to the abundance of research documenting pesticide drift and related health impacts up to a mile or further from the fields where they were applied. If Hawai'i enacts ½ mile buffer zones we will lead the nation on RUP buffers protecting our children in schools.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.²

We are very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure at school³, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions. Public and scientific research is increasingly raising concerns about the combined effects of pesticide “cocktails,” or exposure to mixtures. In the last six years, pesticide companies submitted over 140 patents containing multiple active ingredients, 96 of which “had at least one ... application that claimed or demonstrated synergy between the active ingredients in the product, a total of 69 percent.”⁴ Combination effects are the norm not the exception, yet have not been considered in the pesticide regulatory system.

Findings from 2019 RUP Usage Data

2019 marked the first year RUP reporting data became publicly available. Analysis of this data has revealed that specific communities in Hawai'i, such as North-Central O'ahu (Waialua-Wahiawā) are consistently and heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides in close proximity to schools.⁵ Specific communities in Hawai'i, such as West Kaua'i are facing large combinations of RUP usage, and likely chronic exposures from frequent applications.

The data suggests that additional public health and environmental protections are needed to protect our communities. Widespread protections for communities and sensitive environments are needed, but buffer zones around schools and parks are common sense when addressing children's exposure to such toxic RUPs.

² American Academy of Pediatrics, Pesticide Exposure in Children, December 2012, vol. 130, issue 6.

³ Ames, Richard G. “Pesticide Impacts on Communities and Schools.” *International Journal of Toxicology* 21, no. 5 (October 2002): 397–402. doi:10.1080/10915810290096621.

⁴ Donley, N. “Toxic Concoctions: How the EPA ignores the dangers of pesticide cocktails.” *Center for Biological Diversity*, July 2016: 3-4.

⁵ Jedra, Christina CivilBeat “The Scope Of Heavy Pesticide Use On Oahu Is Finally In The Public Domain” <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/02/the-scope-of-heavy-pesticide-use-on-oahu-is-finally-in-the-public-domain/>



An in-depth analysis of data from 2019-2021⁶ shows particularly concerning heavy use of fumigants, 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D or trade name Telone) and Metam Sodium. Data suggests approximately between 100,000-200,000 lbs of these active ingredients are being applied to north central O‘ahu, annually. These fumigants are known to be carcinogenic and highly prone to drift and cause respiratory illness. In 2020, 1,3-D was found in the air at high levels that significantly increase cancer risk up to seven and a half miles away from the closest known application sites.⁷ These fumigants are capable of increasing cancer risk for adjacent communities.⁸ They are used as fumigants to sterilize the soil, killing beneficial organisms and the life of the soil.

100 foot buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research, which widely demonstrates pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts.⁹

Data obtained from 2019-2021 was mapped (via TMK parcel) and the reporting data suggests that these buffer zones will only apply to a handful of rural communities, and schools / parks throughout Hawai‘i. These areas are west side Kaua‘i (Kekaha to ‘Ele‘ele), Central O‘ahu, Central Mokoka‘i, Makawao and a handful of other schools upon very close inspection. These few areas are where kids are the most at risk in close proximity to RUP use and need buffers the most.

The 2019 data shows approximately 99% of all the RUP use reported in all of Hawai‘i for agriculture, landscape, conservation etc was reportedly used by only 10 entities (5 of which grow food) and 97% of all the use reported in Hawai‘i was only 5 entities. Subsequent years also show that a handful of RP users dominate usage statewide. This data clearly shows that farmers are not widely using RUPs and therefore not many areas throughout Hawai‘i would see buffers generated by this measure - the sector on a whole would not be meaningfully impacted. This measure seeks to protect our most vulnerable children from exposure to known highly hazardous toxic pesticides.

Childhood Cancer Threat

Children who live in areas of high agricultural activity in the US from birth to age 15 experience a significantly increased risk of childhood cancers.¹⁰ A 2007 meta-analysis of studies linking pesticide exposure concluded:

⁶ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1fbfb09ad12746be8df6df082fe61886>

⁷ Nathan Donley and Sarah Aird, October 2021, OP ED: California Needs to quit ignoring the public health and climate cost of pesticides

⁸ Sharon Lerner, (2021) The Intercept: Environmental Group Charges EPA with Ignoring Evidence of Cancer

⁹ EWG: Schools Near Pesticide Spray Zones Could Lose Health Protections, Nov 2 2022

¹⁰ Carozza L et al. “Risk of Childhood Cancers Associated with Residence in Agriculturally Intensive Areas in the US.” Environmental Health Perspectives. Jan 2008; 116(4): 559-565.



“A number of epidemiological studies consistently reported increased risks between pesticide exposures and childhood leukemia, brain cancer, neuroblastoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Wilms' tumor, and Ewing's sarcoma. An extensive review of these studies was published in 1998 (Zahm & Ward, 1998 Zahm, S. H. and Ward, M. H. 1998. Pesticides and childhood cancer. *Environ. Health. Perspect*, 106(suppl. 3): 893–908.). Fifteen case-control studies, 4 cohort studies, and 2 ecological studies have been published since this review, and 15 of these 21 studies reported statistically significant increased risks between either childhood pesticide exposure or parental occupational exposure and childhood cancer. Therefore, one can confidently state that there is at least some association between pesticide exposure and childhood cancer.”¹¹

Research continues to confirm the pesticide-cancer link with a 2016 Spanish population-based case-control study finding: “[O]ur result points to the same conclusion as many previous studies and suggests that living in the proximity of cultivated land could be associated with many types of cancer in children.”¹²

Harm to Children's Brains

The most recent study of the UC Berkeley research team, CHAMACOS, indicates that combined organophosphate (OP) applications near pregnant women have a negative effect on the IQ of their children, where some individual OPs may not. Every 522 pounds of OPs applied within a 1 kilometer (0.62 mile) radius of a pregnant Salinas Valley woman's home correlated with a 2 point drop in her children's IQ compared to a control group.¹³ Recent evidence also suggests that social adversity exacerbates the adverse effects of prenatal OP exposure on IQ.¹⁴

The science connecting pesticide exposure to neurological impairment is not limited to prenatal studies. Out of the womb, children with higher levels of OP pesticide breakdown products in their urine are more likely to have ADHD.^{15 16}

A study of pre- and postnatal pesticide exposure and neurodevelopmental impairment, concluded that “postnatal and, to a lesser extent, prenatal exposure to pesticides, are negatively associated with children's neuropsychological development, regardless of the way of measuring

¹¹ Infante-Rivard C and Weichenthal S. “Pesticides and Childhood Cancer: An Update of Zahm and Ward's 1998 Review.” *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part B* Vol. 10 , Iss. 1-2,2007.

¹² Gómez Barroso et al. “Agricultural crop exposure and risk of childhood cancer: new findings from a case-control study in Spain.” *Int J Health Geogr* (2016) 15:18.

¹³ Gunier RB et al. “Prenatal Residential Proximity to Agricultural Pesticide Use and IQ in 7-Year-Old Children.” *Environ Health Perspect* June 2016

¹⁴ Stein LJ et al. “Early childhood adversity potentiates the adverse association between prenatal organophosphate pesticide exposure and child IQ: the CHAMACOS cohort.” Accepted manuscript in *Neurotoxicology* (2016). doi: 10.1016/j.neuro.2016.07.010.

¹⁵ Bouchard M et al. “ADHD and urinary metabolites of organophosphate pesticides.” *Pediatrics* 2010 125(6): 1270-1277.

¹⁶ Kuehn B. “Increased Risk of ADHD Associated with Early Exposure to Pesticides, PCBs.” *JAMA* July 2010, 304(1):27-28.



exposure.” In the same study, greater urinary levels of OP breakdown products were associated with poorer performance on IQ and verbal comprehension tests. Increased agricultural acreage around the child’s residence postnatally was used as a proxy for cumulative exposure to pesticides– and was found to be associated with decreased IQ, processing speed, and verbal comprehension scores.¹⁷

Epidemiological studies have mainly linked prenatal pesticide exposure to effects on children’s neurodevelopment, but we also know that school-age children’s brains are still developing. It should be noted that there is scant data on postnatal exposures of children to pesticides, due in part to research challenges that are separate from our concerns.

Harm to Children’s Lungs

Exposure of children to OP pesticides can also exacerbate asthma symptoms. A UC Berkeley CHAMACOS Study found that higher levels of OP metabolites in urine were associated with respiratory symptoms and coughing at 5 and 7 years of age.¹⁸

A wealth of data shows that pesticides drift much further than ½ mile beyond their target application due to wide, dust migration and volatilization.

For example, one national report¹⁹ on drift-related pesticide poisonings found that in eleven states, 85 percent of people impacted would have been protected by a one-mile buffer zone, and 76 percent of the cases occurred at distances more than one-quarter mile from the application site.

A UC Berkeley CHAMACOS study²⁰ documented chlorpyrifos, (now banned in Hawaii, California and New York) in homes up to 1.8 miles from treated fields. Another UC Davis MIND Institute²¹ study documented significantly increased rates of autism in children of mothers who lived up to one mile from treated fields during pregnancy. The California Childhood Leukemia study²² found elevated concentrations of several pesticides in dust of homes up to three-quarters of a mile from treated fields.

¹⁷ B. González-Alzaga et al. “Pre- and postnatal exposures to pesticides and neurodevelopmental effects in children living in agricultural communities from South-Eastern Spain.” *Environment International* 85 (2015) 229–237

¹⁸ Raanan R et al. “Early life Exposure to OP pesticides and pediatric respiratory symptoms in the CHAMACOS Cohort.” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 123:2 179-182. 2015.

¹⁹ Soo-Jeong Lee et al. “Acute Pesticide Illnesses Associated with Off-Target Pesticide Drift from Agricultural Applications: 11 States, 1998–2006” *Environmental Health Perspectives* [2011]

²⁰ Harney et al. “Pesticides in Dust from Homes in an Agricultural Area” *American Chemical Society*, Oct 2006

²¹ Shelton et al. “Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Prenatal Residential Proximity to Agricultural Pesticides: The CHARGE Study” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Oct. 2014

²² Gunier et al. “Determinants of Agricultural Pesticide Concentrations in Carpet Dust” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, July 2011



Importance of Consistent Units of Measurement

SB 2103 also importantly requires the Department of Agriculture to report out RUP usage in consistent units of measurement, ideally by TMK. The reporting for RUP (Restricted Use Pesticide) use data in Hawai'i, has only recently started to become available, as of 2019. Because of poor reporting, it has taken considerable effort to make sense of the data, do the calculations, and format them into consistent metrics.

HAPA worked with our partners and independent contractors to convert the 2019-2021 data into a consistent unit of measurement (pounds), as data is reported in gallons, pounds and ounces, to GIS map the amounts used per TMK, pounds per acre, frequency of application, and combinations of pesticides. Each RUP formulation requires a different calculation to convert usage data into a consistent unit of measurement. This is important to allow for an “apples to apples” comparison of RUP usage in each community and statewide. Having all of Hawaii's RUP usage data converted pounds also allows for comparison with other states lbs/acre rates. For example, by converting all the 2019 data into pounds we could compare Hawaii's fumigant usage with California and other major agriculture producing states. Hawai'i usage appears to be among the highest in the nation.

California's Department of Pesticide Regulation currently converts all RUP usage data into pounds for public reporting purposes. We recommend a system similar to California.

Conclusion

Despite an abundance of evidence documenting the migration of pesticides well beyond the ½ mile buffer zones proposed in SB 2103 we recognize that ½ mile still will provide a significant improvement on the current 100 feet.

The threats are real and well established and the most at risk are our children in a handful of specific communities throughout Hawai'i. Please don't wait any longer to protect our children in schools from pesticide drift.

Please support SB 2103.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



February 5, 2026

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Tim Richards and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **SB2103**, Relating to Pesticides

Aloha,

I am writing to support SB2103 with comments. This measure would require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to increase transparency to the public around restricted use pesticides (RUPs) that are applied, by summarizing amounts applied using consistent units of measurement, commercial product names, and active ingredients. Beginning 1/1/2027, a one-half mile buffer zone would be established for pesticides used around schools during school hours, as well as state and county public parks. In 2018 Act 45 was passed which created a 100-foot buffer zone, so this measure would increase the buffer zone.

There are countless scientific studies that have found that pesticide use can have harmful and lasting effects on our health, which was confirmed by the legislature through the passing of Act 45. Farmers and agriculture companies using RUPs may argue that they rely on these chemicals to provide food for our islands, but it cannot come at the expense of public health and safety. Therefore, an increased buffer zone that would allow for more distance between harmful chemicals and spaces where children and the public inhabit is necessary.

Transparency around the amounts of RUPs applied using consistent measurements is also important. Civil Beat reported that when staff from the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action tried to analyze records related to pesticide use, that "they were hard to make sense of" and "took years" of sifting, transcribing, and plotting in on a map so that the public could understand what was happening around them in their communities.¹ There should be a better system implemented so data can be made more easily available to the public.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure and thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,
Sydney Haas & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

¹ Jedra, C. (2023, February 1). The Scope Of Heavy Pesticide Use On Oahu Is Finally In The Public Domain. Honolulu Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/02/the-scope-of-heavy-pesticide-use-on-oahu-is-finally-in-the-public-domain/>

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:38:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:12:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:58:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:36:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edgar Cordero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How are we going to keep farmers in Hawaii?

I'm supportive of safe and responsible use of pesticides in Hawaii and even buffer zones around schools but definitely not half a mile.

Do we have data to show how many farmers this will impact?

Double the monetary fines for violations but don't take away their ability to generate a fine profit.

There are ways to safely apply crop protection products. The focus should be on promoting and enabling them.

If done right, students can become farmers.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:05:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Another good starting place before we need to ban all pesticides. Please remember, scientists are finding pesticides in the polar ice. If you think 1/2 mile is sufficient then you need to do more homework. Please support this important first step.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:51:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 2103**, which increases protections for communities—especially keiki—from pesticide exposure.

SB 2103 requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use **consistent units of measurement** when publicly reporting restricted use pesticide (RUP) applications. Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill also establishes a **one-half mile buffer zone** for pesticide applications around schools during normal school hours and around state and county public parks.

This bill is critically important. An abundance of scientific literature on **pesticide drift** and the **heightened vulnerability of children** to pesticide exposure clearly demonstrates the need for meaningful buffer zones. Children, kūpuna, and other sensitive populations deserve consistent and science-based protections.

Analysis of RUP usage data in Hawai‘i shows that many communities continue to experience high exposure to **drift-prone pesticides**. Existing **100-foot buffer zones are not supported by scientific research** and do not adequately protect public health. Research has demonstrated that some pesticides can drift **over a mile** and cause measurable health impacts. Keiki are especially vulnerable, and their health must be prioritized.

California has enacted similar pesticide buffer zone protections around schools while continuing to maintain the **most robust agricultural economy in the United States**. Hawai‘i can—and must—protect public health while also supporting local food production.

The **American Academy of Pediatrics** has found a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides and has called for additional safeguards to prevent unintended exposure. Long-term pesticide exposure while keiki are at school or playing in public parks poses serious health risks, including **cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory illness**.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **protect our keiki and pass SB 2103**.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:58:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SB2103, which would establish science-based pesticide buffer zones to protect our most vulnerable communities, especially our keiki.

An overwhelming body of scientific evidence confirms that pesticide drift poses a serious threat to public health, and that children are uniquely susceptible to its harmful effects. Their developing bodies absorb toxins more readily, and exposure is linked to increased risks of cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory problems. When keiki are at school or play in our parks, they deserve an environment free from this preventable danger.

Our current protections are not aligned with this science. A generic 100-foot buffer zone is woefully inadequate. Research demonstrates that certain volatile pesticides can drift over a mile from the application site, exposing entire communities without their consent. Analysis of Hawai‘i’s own pesticide use data confirms that many neighborhoods remain heavily exposed to these drift-prone chemicals.

SB2103 is a common-sense, precautionary measure that follows the evidence and follows the lead of states like California, which has successfully implemented protective buffer zones around schools while maintaining the nation’s most robust agricultural economy. This bill proves that protecting public health and supporting a productive local food sector are not mutually exclusive goals; they are both essential to a sustainable future for Hawai‘i.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has been clear: we must take additional precautions to shield children from unintended pesticide exposure. Establishing meaningful buffer zones around schools, childcare facilities, hospitals, and parks is a fundamental step in fulfilling that duty.

We have the scientific imperative and the moral obligation to act. I urge you to pass SB2103 to ensure that our laws provide real, equitable protection for every resident, and to prioritize the health of our keiki over the convenience of outdated and hazardous application practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:47:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:36:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:53:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:15:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

if we need to use these products, we can at least try to minimize risk.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:49:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dita Škalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:59:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103 towards increased buffer zones around schools and parks.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:08:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Brown Norberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB 2103. You really can't deny this one. We've been more than concerned and fighting for this kind of protection for the keiki for decades now.

An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100' buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Natalie Norberg, Pukalani Maui

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:53:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

kimdonghyeon

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:45:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:02:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doorae Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this measure. We need more regulations on harmful pesticides to protect public and environmental health.

Mahalo,

Doorae Shin

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:06:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:25:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Miner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I submit this testimony asking you to please support SB 2103. I am from Hanapepe, Kauai, and attended Waimea Canyon Middle School just a few years after several kids and teachers were reportedly sick after pesticides were sprayed just near the middle school. And this spraying has gone on since. There is an abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children. This bill does not advocate to end pesticide use, but to ensure usage safe for our keiki and our educators. Our keiki already have so much to worry about in this day and age--life-long untraceable health issues from pesticide exposure should not be a part of their worries.

Requiring 1-mile buffer zones is the least that should be done. Analysis of restricted-use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift-prone pesticides. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure, and in Hawaii, pesticide usage is prevalent in our most vulnerable communities.

1-mile buffer zones are also do-able, while continuing with Hawaii's food production goals. California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks should be a concern we all share. This exposure constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions--my keiki, your keiki, and our keiki should never have to experience this.

The one thing we all share (I hope), is the love and devotion to making Hawaii safer and better for our keiki. Please pass SB 2103.

Harley Miner, Pu'uloa

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:25:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Weitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:00:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:33:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Metzger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Metzger, and I am a full-time beekeeper in Hawai‘i. I strongly support SB 2103, which would establish a one-half mile buffer zone for restricted use pesticides around schools during normal school hours and around state and county public parks beginning January 1, 2027.

There is extensive scientific evidence showing that pesticides can drift far beyond application sites and that children are uniquely vulnerable to pesticide exposure. Current buffer zones of 100 feet are not supported by science. Research has shown that certain pesticides can drift over a mile and cause adverse health impacts. Keiki, whose bodies and nervous systems are still developing, face higher risks from even low-level exposure.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide data in Hawai‘i shows that many communities remain exposed to drift-prone pesticides. As a beekeeper, I see how easily chemicals move through the environment and affect living systems far from where they are applied. This same drift places keiki at risk while they are at school or playing in public parks—places that should be among the safest environments in our communities.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has identified significantly increased health risks for children exposed to pesticides and has called for stronger protections. Long-term exposure has been linked to cancer, neurological harm, respiratory illness, and developmental impacts. These risks are unacceptable when practical, science-based protections are available.

California has implemented similar buffer zones around schools while continuing to lead the nation in agricultural production. Hawai‘i can both support agriculture and protect children by adopting meaningful, evidence-based safeguards.

Please protect our keiki and support SB 2103.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Katie Metzger
Hale‘iwa, Hawai‘i

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:19:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keiki, like mine, are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure. Please keep them safe by increasing buffer zones around schools and parks. Mahalo!

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:30:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2103

Buffer Zones & Improved Pesticide Reporting

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

This bill is grounded in sound science and basic public health principles. Children are not just small adults. Their developing brains, organs, and immune systems are far more vulnerable to toxic exposures, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults. They are extremely susceptible to pesticide drift and exposure. Numerous peer-reviewed studies have linked pesticide exposure to adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes, learning disabilities, asthma, endocrine disruption, and increased cancer risk. Schools and parks are places where children should be protected, not placed at heightened risk from chemical drift they cannot see, smell, or avoid.

Pesticide drift is not hypothetical. RUPs, particularly fumigants, are designed to volatilize and move through air and soil. Air monitoring has detected hazardous levels of pesticides more than half a mile from treated fields, and in documented cases on the continent, harmful levels were detected from sources miles away. Wind, temperature inversions, and Hawai‘i’s unique microclimates further increase the unpredictability of drift. A one-half mile buffer is a reasonable, science-based safeguard that reflects what we already know about how these chemicals behave in the real world.

I also strongly support the reporting provisions of SB2103. I understand the importance of this section deeply because I have personally attempted to transcribe, calculate, and analyze Hawai‘i’s pesticide use data. The current reporting system contains inconsistent units, missing entries, and data gaps that make accurate analysis extremely difficult. This creates uncertainty, underestimation, and confusion for researchers, policymakers, and the public. Improving clarity and consistency is essential if reporting is to fulfill the intent of Act 45, which was passed to make pesticide use transparent and publicly accessible.

Equally important is improving the location framework for pesticide reporting. The current reliance on TMKs introduces significant uncertainty, as TMKs can cover large areas and do not show where pesticides are applied within a parcel. This prevents pesticide data from being used meaningfully in epidemiological studies, environmental assessments, or exposure modeling. Without better geospatial precision, it is nearly impossible to evaluate proximity to schools,

parks, homes, waterways, and wells, or to assess cumulative impacts. Better spatial reporting is critical for science-based decision-making and public health protection.

SB 2103 sets reasonable boundaries to protect keiki, families, and the public while improving transparency. At the same time, we must acknowledge the larger picture: Hawai‘i must support farmers in transitioning away from heavy reliance on toxic chemicals toward non-toxic, regenerative, and sustainable practices. That transition requires investment, technical assistance, and time. While we work toward that future, this bill represents an immediate, necessary step to reduce harm and protect communities right now as well as ensuring transparency and clarity about what is even being used, when and where.

Protecting children where they learn and play should not be controversial. SB2103 is a prudent, evidence-based measure that fulfills the fundamental responsibility to safeguard public health and the environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB2103.

Respectfully,
Fern Holland

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:57:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Malia Chun, Kekaha, Kaua‘i

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:26:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Johannson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing as a resident and parent living on Maui very close to farmlands. I'm specifically close to farmland managed by Mahi Pono and I'm very concerned with the amount of pesticide use close to my home and child's school. I'm asking you to please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100' buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Mahalo,

Amber Johannson, Makawao

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:37:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Leo Nahe

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:31:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Thank you!

Jonathan Simonds, Hilo

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:16:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:26:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, please support SN 2103 and protect our keiki. I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Hansen

Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:42:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Jennifer Cole, Anahola HI

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:49:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Savannah Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Savannah Hall, Ewa Beach

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:53:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hyo Jung Kwon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

As a mother of a young child myself, I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Hyo Kwon, Maona

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:33:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau‘i

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:51:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Risch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2103. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

Maile Risch, Pukalani

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:13:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Joell Edwards, and I'm a community member from Wainiha.

Please support SB 2103. There is strong scientific evidence showing that pesticide drift travels far beyond current 100-foot buffer zones, and children are especially vulnerable to exposure. Keiki deserve to be safe at school, at parks, and in their neighborhoods.

Hawai'i's own restricted use pesticide data shows many communities remain heavily exposed to drift-prone chemicals. Research has shown some pesticides can drift over a mile and cause real health impacts. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has found increased health risks for children exposed to pesticides and urges stronger protections.

California already requires buffer zones around schools and still has a strong agricultural economy. Hawai'i can protect keiki while supporting local food production.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 2103.

SB-2103

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:40:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brissa Christophersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2103 and enforcing larger buffer zones around schools and state parks in pesticide applications.