

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2493

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2713  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2713 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PESTICIDE BUFFER ZONES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to, beginning January 1, 2027, prohibit the application of restricted use pesticides within a half-mile radius of elderly health care facilities, with exemptions for whole structure fumigation and invasive species control.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and three individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Pest Control Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Western Wood Preservers Institute and Treated Wood Council; Sugarland Farms, Inc.; CropLife America; and Hawaii Crop Improvement Association.

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



Your Committee finds that pesticide drift can occur when aerosolized chemical pesticides travel to adjacent areas after its application, which has been linked to potential negative health outcomes. In fact, chronic exposure to pesticidal toxins has been connected to cancer, Parkinson's disease, and dementia. Your Committee further finds that seniors and older adults are particularly vulnerable to pesticide drift. Therefore, this measure would establish protections for sensitive communities.

Your Committee acknowledges the concerns raised in testimony by the Department of Health that restricted use pesticides are necessary for the operations of its Vector Control Branch. Your Committee further acknowledges the concerns raised in testimony by the Western Wood Preservers Institute and Treated Wood Council that the application of wood preservative pesticides is required by Hawaii State Building Code. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address these concerns.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Exempting the Department of Health from the restricted use pesticides one-half mile buffer zone requirement;
- (2) Exempting the use of pesticides designed specifically for the treatment and preservation of wood;
- (3) Updating section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2713, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2713, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.



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



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MIKE GABBARD, Chair



