

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
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**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. 2333  
RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2333 relating to neonicotinoids. This bill prohibits the sale, possession, or use of a pesticide containing one or more neonicotinoid pesticides, under certain conditions starting on January 1, 2027. The bill would require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate the potential impacts of and adopt any necessary control measures for neonicotinoid pesticide use on pollinating insects, native migratory and resident birds, aquatic organisms, and human health. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) offers comments.

The Department currently licenses the following number of neonicotinoid products based on active ingredients:

- Acetamiprid: 17
- Clothianidin: 32
- Dinotefuran: 66
- Imidacloprid: 263
- Thiamethoxam: 21
- Thiacloprid: 0

Pesticides with the neonicotinoid class of active ingredients include products such as flea collars and flea topicals for pets and indoor applications such as bed bug, cockroach, and termite treatments. Additionally, several products with a neonicotinoid as an active ingredient have multiple uses which allow for both structural pest control and/or another use such as outdoor use. All these use cases would require a certified applicator to apply any of these types of pesticides.

Additionally, these neonicotinoid pesticides can only be sold by pest control operators licensed under 460J. These pest control operators are entities that practice or offer pest control and may not necessarily sell pesticides. There are dealers permitted by the Department which allow the distribution of restricted use pesticides. These permitted dealers have dealer representatives that need to comply with pesticide competency standards that are outlined in Hawaii Administrative Rules 4-66.

Notification to both brick and mortar and online retailers and the manufacturers would need to be provided to ensure all neonicotinoids are not sold to the public. Extensive efforts have been taken to notify retailers of prior changes to Hawaii Pesticide Laws which occurred in 2019 with over 200 retail locations being either inspected or provided consultative services since the laws went into effect. A similar, if not greater, effort would be required by the Pesticides Branch to provide ample notice to all distributors of these products. In addition, if those retailers choose to continue to distribute those products, they will need to become pest control operators licensed under chapter 460J.

The Department is concerned that anyone who possesses a pesticide containing one or more neonicotinoids would be in violation of the law starting January 1, 2027. As stated previously, neonicotinoids comprise of a variety of different uses, and this bill will impact a multitude of individuals and organizations. This includes those who have inherited pesticides. Unused and unwanted pesticides are considered hazardous waste and there are strict regulations on their disposal. Currently, there are hazardous waste disposal events for residential pesticides available courtesy of the City and Counties of each island. However, disposal of commercial pesticides would be at the expense of the company or organization unless a pesticide disposal program is available. There are concerns that the beginning date of January 1, 2027, would not be enough time to inform the public of the new regulations and for the public to take action to comply with the new regulations.

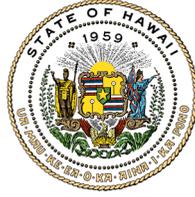
The Department does not have the expertise nor the resources to conduct the risk assessments outlined in the bill in Section 2, §149A-31 (8)(A). The Pesticides Branch is a regulatory agency that specializes in compliance with the pesticide statutes and rules. The Department requests that funds are allocated to contract these multi-faceted risk assessments. Additionally, the Department is requesting a later implementation date for the draft and final risk assessments for each active ingredient.

The Department recommends postponing any restrictions on neonicotinoids until after the risk assessments are completed. Any restrictions proposed should be based on the results of the risk assessments.

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



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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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 224

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2333  
RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS

Senate Bill 2333 bans the sale, possession, or use of pesticides containing one or more neonicotinoids, starting 1/1/2027, under certain conditions. It requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to assess the potential impacts and implement any necessary control measures for neonicotinoid pesticide use on pollinating insects, native migratory and resident birds, aquatic life, and human health. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) has strong concerns and offers the following comments.**

Protecting natural resources is central to the Department's mission. Therefore, the use of chemical pesticides is avoided when reasonable alternatives exist to achieve the same goals. However, there are some situations where using certain pesticides is the only available option to control and manage invasive pest species and to safeguard Hawaii's ecological, cultural, and economic interests.

The use of neonicotinoid (NN) pesticides such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran is crucial for protecting numerous crop, horticultural, landscape, and rare native plants from some of the most invasive plant-feeding pest insects. In most cases, products containing these active ingredients are the only effective, accessible, and labeled tools available. For example, imidacloprid is the only pesticide labeled for systemic use to protect palm trees, especially rare and endangered loulu, from the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). Although this bill grants an exception for use in rapid response to invasive or destructive species, it would prevent application in situations where protecting vulnerable species in areas beyond the "rapid response" phase is necessary, such as on O'ahu, where some of our most at-risk species are

on the brink of extinction. These tools are often the only options for managing other persistent pests.

The black twig borer and lobate lac scale are additional pests that need to be managed on Threatened and Endangered (T&E) plants grown in nurseries, gardens, and managed forest areas to ensure their survival. Losing individual plants would be devastating for these species' survival. The Department and its partners currently use, and must continue to use, NN pesticides such as Merit, Marathon, CoreTect, and similar products to protect T&E species until an alternative becomes available.

Additionally, NN are used as systemic pesticides for larger trees where other control or barrier methods are impractical. This includes using NN when mesh netting to protect palms from CRB is not feasible due to height, or for safeguarding leaves in tall tree canopies from avocado lace bugs and other leaf-feeding pests.

The Department also recognizes that imidacloprid is the active ingredient in many flea and tick treatments for cats and dogs.

Regarding the bill's risk-assessment provisions, the EPA's pesticide labeling process already addresses most of the points listed in paragraph 8. Requiring re-evaluation of all these pesticides for these factors would be redundant, time-consuming, and costly.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

### Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 2333

Friday, February 6th, 2026 3:01 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA **supports SB2333** which, increases restrictions on the usage of neonicotinoid pesticides in Hawai'i and requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate the potential impacts of and adopt any necessary control measures for neonicotinoid pesticide use on pollinating insects, native migratory and resident birds, aquatic organisms, and human health.

#### **Why Hawai'i Should Restrict Neonicotinoid Use:**

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class in the United States and globally. The way they work is by permanently binding to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. While most well-known for impacts to pollinators, there is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on **human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms**. *A small fraction of the available peer reviewed studies are cited here.*

#### **Summary of Findings on Human Health Impacts:**

Studies find that humans are often exposed to neonicotinoids through water contamination<sup>1</sup>, with the pesticides leaching into groundwater and aquifers<sup>2</sup>. This is proven through neonicotinoids being found in human urine samples, with half of the U.S. population being exposed to these pesticides<sup>3</sup>. Exposure to neonicotinoids causes many different adverse health effects, particularly for prenatal exposure among pregnant women<sup>4</sup>. Prenatal exposure to neonicotinoids is linked to adverse birth outcomes and developmental issues like heart defects, autism spectrum disorder, spontaneous abortion risk, low birth weight, neurodevelopmental delays, behavioral problems, DNA damage, genotoxicity, childhood leukemia risk, and increased maternal risk of holoprosencephaly (HPE). In addition to prenatal exposure risk, it is also found

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<sup>1</sup> Thompson, Darrin A et al. "Prevalence of neonicotinoids and sulfoxaflo in alluvial aquifers in a high corn and soybean producing region of the Midwestern United States" *Science of the Total Environment*, Volume 782, 15 August 2021, 146762

<sup>2</sup> Thompson, Darrin A et al. "Prevalence of neonicotinoid insecticides in paired private-well tap water and human urine samples in a region of intense agriculture overlying vulnerable aquifers in eastern Iowa" *Chemosphere*, Volume 319, April 2023, 137904

<sup>3</sup> Ospina, Maria et al. "Exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides in the U.S. general population: Data from the 2015-2016 national health and nutrition examination survey" *Environmental Research*, Sept. 2019

<sup>4</sup> Buckley, Jessie P. et al "Exposure to Contemporary and Emerging Chemicals in Commerce among Pregnant Women in the United States: The Environmental influences on Child Health Outcome (ECHO) Program" *Ecotoxicology and Public Health*, May 10, 2022



that neonicotinoids induce oxidative stress, leading to cellular damage (lipids, DNA, proteins), particularly affecting the liver and reproductive organs, as well as toxicological risks including hepatotoxicity, oxidative damage, and reproductive harm.

### **Summary of Findings on Aquatic Species Impacts**

In addition to human health impacts, neonics are also shown to have negative impacts on many aquatic species. Studies show that neonicotinoids are widely detected in rivers, streams, and wetlands, often exceeding regulatory toxicity limits and persisting in aquatic environments for days to weeks, raising concerns about long-term impacts on aquatic life<sup>5</sup>. Neonicotinoid exposure causes population declines in aquatic invertebrates, causing decreased fishery yields<sup>6</sup>. Sub-lethal effects from neonicotinoids include feeding inhibition, impaired movement, reduced fecundity, reduced byssus production, tissue harm, behavioral alterations, reduced locomotion, impaired prey capture, oxidative stress, DNA damage, developmental toxicity and malformations in embryos, and the disruption of food webs and overall biodiversity.

### **Summary of Findings on Pollinator Impacts**

Neonicotinoids are not only impacting aquatic species, but many pollinator species as well.<sup>7</sup> Research indicates that neonicotinoids persist in the environment, accumulating in soil, pollen, and nectar, leading to ongoing risks for pollinators. Neonicotinoids cause significant declines in Bumblebee and honey bee colony growth, reduced queen production, reduced foraging efficiency, impaired flight performance, decreased colony health, increased mortality, impaired sucrose consumption, increased Varroa destructor mite parasitism in colonies, increasing vulnerability to parasitic infestations, nest destruction, and reduced offspring emergence<sup>8</sup>. In addition to the many harms facing bees, butterfly populations globally are declining at 2–4% per year due to neonicotinoid-treated seeds. Pollinator declines due to neonicotinoids reduce plant diversity, harming ecosystem services like soil biodiversity, nutrient cycling, carbon storage, and leading to negative effects on crop production.

### **Summary of Findings on Various Living Organisms**

While aquatic species and pollinators are the two most prominent groups of affected species, there are also many other living organisms negatively affected by neonicotinoids. Various studies find that earthworms, deer, birds (especially granivorous), and arthropods are all

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<sup>5</sup> Borsuah, Josephus F. et al “Literature Review: Global Neonicotinoid Insecticide Occurrence in Aquatic Environments” Water, Volume 2, Issue 2, 2020

<sup>6</sup> Stackpoole, Sarah M. et al “Pesticides in US Rivers: Regional differences in use, occurrence, and environmental toxicity, 2013 to 2017” Science of The Total Environment, Volume 787, 15 September 2021

<sup>7</sup> Van Deynze, Braeden et al “Insecticides, more than herbicides, land use, and climate, are associated with declines in butterfly species richness and abundance in the American Midwest” PLOS, June 20, 2024

<sup>8</sup> Singla, Akanksha et al “Influence of neonicotinoids on pollinators: A review” Journal of Apicultural Research, Volume 60, 2021 - Issue 1



negatively affected by neonics as well, with effects including reduced offspring survival and health, and reduced reproductive success<sup>9</sup>.

Overall, neonicotinoids have negative impacts on not only human health, but countless living organisms as well, including aquatic species and pollinators, which lead to reduced crop yields and agricultural efficiency.

**Restricting Neonics in Hawai'i is Warranted:**

Eleven states have already stepped up to protect communities from the harms of neonics<sup>10</sup>. Given exemptions from tracking, reporting and federal oversight there are specific concerns about the use of neonics here in Hawai'i. Given our history of seed production there remains on-going questions about what neonic seed coating may be happening in Hawai'i, with absolutely no oversight this may have been occurring for decades.

We strongly support efforts to limit neonicotinoid use in Hawaii. Given extensive science relating to the impacts associated, the failure on the federal level to have oversight and reporting of neonic use, and the precedence of many other states taking action to protect their ecosystems from systemic pesticides we believe that a ban for turf, ornamental, landscaping and open air outdoor agricultural uses is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration. Please support SB2333.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the typed name.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

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<sup>9</sup> Goulson, Dave "An overview of the environmental risks posed by neonicotinoid insecticides" Journal of Applied Ecology, 2013, 50, 977-987

<sup>10</sup> Beyond Pesticides (2023) States Step In to Restrict Bee-Toxic Pesticides, California the Latest in Absence of EPA Action



# **HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

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## **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION**

### **Senate Bill 2333 – Neonicotinoid Pesticides; Prohibition; Evaluations**

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 respectfully opposes SB 2333, which would prohibit the sale, possession, or use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids beginning January 1, 2027, under specified conditions.

Neonicotinoids are an important tool in professional pest management, particularly for termite control, invasive species management, and structural pest prevention. These products are subject to extensive federal review and are applied by licensed professionals using precise, low-exposure methods designed to protect people and the environment.

A broad prohibition fails to consider real-world application practices, product formulations, and site-specific risk management. Eliminating these tools may force applicators to rely on less effective or more disruptive alternatives, potentially increasing overall pesticide use.

While continued scientific evaluation is appropriate, SB 2333 imposes restrictions before the completion of the required impact assessments and without consideration of professional-use exemptions. This premature action could have unintended economic and public health consequences.

The Hawaii Pest Control Association respectfully requests that the Committee defer SB 2333 or exempt licensed pest control applicators using neonicotinoid products in accordance with existing state and federal regulations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Emmanuel Zibakalam



February 6, 2026

To: The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard  
Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Re: Hawaii S.B. 2333

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) is writing this letter to submit comment for the public hearing called for February 6, 2026, in opposition of S.B. 2333, which would ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, an important component and critical seed treatment tool for agriculture production.

Founded in 1883, ASTA represents nearly 700 companies involved in seed production and distribution, plant breeding, and related industries in North America. ASTA members research, develop, produce and distribute all varieties of seeds – including grasses, forages, flowers, vegetables, row crops, and cereals. Quality seed products from ASTA members support farmers of conventional, genetically engineered, and organic crops to produce food and farm commodities in the U.S. and around the world.

Seeds treated with neonicotinoid applications provide an important first line of defense from soil born pests and disease through germination and emergence. By helping protect the developing seedling during its most vulnerable time, innovative seed treatments allow farmers to do more with less. For the environment, this means less impact on natural resources and non-target organisms. For farmers, it means less production costs, and higher, more consistent yields. For residents of Hawaii, it means access to high-quality, affordable food.

In addition to the effectiveness of the technology, it is important to note that treated seeds are highly regulated, just as foliar- and soil-applied pesticides are. The Federal Seed Act regulates the labeling, sale, and movement of seed in the U.S. It's important to note that federally approved labels must reflect the risk assessment and mitigation processes. These products must also undergo thorough evaluation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and applicable state agencies prior to commercialization and periodically thereafter.

Seed treatments allow for the precise application of biological organisms, products and/or chemical ingredients to suppress, control, or repel plant pathogens, insects, or other pests that attack seeds, seedlings, or plants. In a very efficient manner, they help a developing seedling during its most vulnerable time and allow today's farmers to do more with less, and to meet new and emerging challenges. Without seed treatments, like neonicotinoids, farmers would be forced to rely on a few older classes of chemistry that are less selective.

That is why ASTA continues to place a high priority on educating the public and policymakers about the safety and efficacy of treated seed. It's critical that we continue to do our part to communicate along the entire seed treatment value chain, around the importance, and necessity of proper stewardship. ASTA, in collaboration with industry and grower partners, developed the *Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship* — a comprehensive set of best practices, for applicators and farmers, around the handling of treated seed. Along with the guide is a set of outreach and education tools, including handouts, videos and FAQs, available for use and download. Each spring and fall, ASTA engages in a targeted communications campaign to help remind industry and growers to follow all applicable laws and regulations around the safe planting, harvesting and disposal of treated seed.

**Is neonic-treated seed necessary?**

- Seed treatments enable earlier and faster planting; stronger, more uniform stands; optimal plant populations; and healthier plants that help increase productivity. Because some pests can damage the seed or seedling to the extent that there are no rescue treatment options available and the plants may either die or not produce a harvestable yield, seed treatments give farmers confidence that they are proactively managing early-season risk and minimizing the expense and environmental impact of replanting.

**Do treated seeds impact the surrounding environment?**

- Technology is used to protect pollinators, including enhanced coatings and application processes to increase pesticide adherence to seeds, as well as new flowability agents that help minimize seed dust-off during planting.
- After regulatory authorities approve a pesticide for use, they continue to consider new information to assess the safety of registered products. No pesticide's regulatory approval is permanent. In the U.S., the EPA routinely reviews registered products to determine if they should be renewed.
- The EPA carefully considers effects on many non-pest organisms when they approve new insecticides for use. Following the directions for use on the registered pesticide product labels, as well as the precautionary and instructional information provided on treated seed labels, mitigates exposure of the pesticide to non-pest organisms, including honeybees.

**Do farmers have options to buy non-neonicotinoid treated seed?**

- Farmers have options for buying non-neonicotinoid treated seed. Growers make these decisions with their seed supplier, and companies plan their production and offerings accordingly.
- For certain crops, farmers who wish to purchase non-neonicotinoid treated seed will need to discuss their order in advance because seed companies begin production 9-12 months prior to planting.

**Seed treatment is an important practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) & Sustainability**

- IPM as defined by the EPA is “a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.”
- There are no rescue treatments for soil dwelling insects which is why farmers view neonicotinoid seed treatments as an important part of their pest management plan.
- Neonicotinoid seed treatments play a critical role in IPM programs, including less potential impact on beneficial insects in the field and decreased potential worker exposure. Such an IPM plan can be developed through monitoring fall crop yields, inspection for insect damage on harvested crops, sampling for soil born pests, and reviewing weather data from the previous growing season.
- Neonicotinoid seed treatments selectively control insect pests, while helping ensure beneficial insects remain available to help keep other potential insect pests in check. This tool also provides a unique mode of action, necessary to managing pests resistant to other insecticides. Without neonicotinoids, farmers would be forced to rely on a few, older classes of chemistry that are less selective and more toxic.
- From a pest spectrum and resistance management perspective, having multiple tools for farmers' pest management programs is important both for the farmer as well as for the longevity of the tools.

In summary, the use of seeds improved through modern technologies, such as seed treatments, is important as an Integrated Pest Management tool and input directly affecting sustainability. Farmers need access to every tool available, including the newest seed treatments to safeguard the long-term reliability of our food supply, the strength of our farms, and health of our planet. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jordan Gregory  
Director, State Government Affairs  
American Seed Trade Association  
[jgregory@betterseed.org](mailto:jgregory@betterseed.org)



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February 6, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2333**  
RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS

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 2333**, which will make it more difficult for local farmers and ranchers to produce and to remain viable in Hawai'i. The bill will also require extensive research and time to be undertaken by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) that has neither the expertise nor the resources to conduct. These types of extensive studies and evaluations are conducted under the auspices of the EPA and possibly by states such as California, that have the funding, the expertise, and a vast agricultural industry that uses these products.

The bill would impose RUP-type requirements on all pesticides if they are designated by DAB as belonging to the neonicotinoid class. We have serious concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this bill to agriculture and our natural resources.

HFB recognizes and supports the robust and evidence-based regulation of pesticide products. However, unnecessary restrictions that would take away needed tools from growers and others could pose serious threats to public health, agriculture, and the environment. We urge the committee to consider the following concerns:

- **Neonicotinoids provide excellent control of many pests that are otherwise very difficult to control with other methods.**

This fact is especially important in combating the many destructive invasive species that are attacking our natural resources, including our irreplaceable watersheds. Making it more difficult for farmers to use neonicotinoids will place farms at risk from dangerous pests that can be controlled by these products. For many fruit and vegetable crops, neonicotinoid products are important components of insecticide rotations that help

prevent insect resistance and decrease pesticide use. For some pests, there are few or no effective chemical alternatives available.

- **EPA and DAB already strictly regulate all pesticides and seed treated with neonicotinoids**

In addition, DAB has the authority to and does further restrict the sale and use of any pesticide it deems to be a threat in our state. The many studies required by these agencies have assessed and continue to assess the safety of each neonicotinoid pesticide to humans, the environment, and wildlife.

- **Loss of crops or use of less effective pesticides**

Restricting the use of all neonicotinoids could cause growers to lose much, if not all of their crops to devastating pests, or force them to replace these pesticides with other products such as older, potentially more toxic, less targeted, and less effective chemicals that would require more frequent and heavier applications. Neonicotinoid seed treatment is used in integrated pest management plans to selectively control insect pests without impact to beneficial insects in the field and with less potential for worker exposure. They are important in managing pests resistant to other insecticides.

- **Farmers need bees and other pollinators**

Farmers depend on and protect bees and other pollinators, which are essential for their crops. Many farmers are beekeepers themselves and go to great lengths to provide habitat and forage for bee colonies. Studies performed around the world demonstrate that neonicotinoids are effective in controlling harmful insects in agricultural and non-agricultural settings and can be used safely and without harm to bees when used according to the law and the mandatory and enforceable label instructions. There have been no mass losses of honeybees linked to neonicotinoids, anywhere in the world.

- **Threat to Hawai'i food self-sufficiency**

Arbitrary changes to pesticide laws in Hawai'i will further impede our progress in achieving more food self-sufficiency and will instead make our home-grown products less available and more costly to residents in the face of unfair competition or lack of availability from out of state, where these pesticides may not be similarly prohibited.

## **Recommendations:**

We support measures that would give DAB increased funding and capacity to perform its mandates, including pesticide use and safety education to ensure safeguards to protect farmers, the public, and our fragile island ecosystems.

Although nearly everyone uses pesticides in some way, not everyone is educated about their proper use. HFB encourages more education, assistance, and focus regarding pesticide safety, especially for in-home use, where children and others may have greater exposure.

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 Hawai'i. Thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i agriculture.

February 5, 2026

**Committee:** Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

**Bill:** SB 2333 – Relating to Neonicotinoids

**Position:** Support

### **Testimony of American Bird Conservancy in Support of SB 2333**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and our members across Hawai‘i, we are pleased to submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 2333** which seeks to protect Hawai‘i’s unique biodiversity and public health by restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. As a national non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, ABC has long identified neonicotinoids as a primary threat to avian populations and the ecosystems they depend on.

#### **The Threat to Hawai‘i’s Native Birds**

While avian malaria and habitat loss are well-known threats, the pervasive use of neonicotinoids introduces a modern, systemic danger to these fragile populations. SB 2333 addresses this by phasing out the sale and use of these chemicals, which impact birds in several ways:

- **Direct Toxicity:** Scientific research has shown that even a single seed treated with neonicotinoids can be lethal to a bird. For migratory and resident birds in Hawai‘i, the ingestion of treated seeds or contaminated water can lead to acute poisoning.
- **Sub-lethal Effects:** At lower doses, neonicotinoids are known to impair bird navigation, reduce reproductive success, and cause significant weight loss—all of which decrease the likelihood of survival in the wild.
- **Ecosystem Collapse:** Neonicotinoids are systemic insecticides, meaning they permeate every part of a plant that beneficial insects may ingest. By decimating the insect base, these pesticides cause indirect starvation and population decline for species like the Koloa (Hawaiian duck) and Ae’o (Hawaiian stilt).

#### **Protecting Pollinators and Public Health**

SB 2333 correctly identifies the risks to pollinating insects and aquatic organisms. Hawai‘i’s native flora relies on healthy pollinator networks. Furthermore, the bill’s requirement for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate human health impacts is a vital safeguard for the people of Hawai‘i.

#### **Hawai‘i’s Unique Proximity to the Ocean**

When neonicotinoids run off from Hawaiian farms, their high water solubility allows them to move rapidly from volcanic soils into coastal watersheds and the surrounding ocean. Unlike many older pesticides that bind to soil, neonics remain dissolved in water where they pose a systemic threat to Hawaii's marine biodiversity.

- **Impact on Marine Invertebrates:** As neurotoxins, they are exceptionally lethal to aquatic arthropods, such as shrimp and crabs, and can impair the development of mollusks like oysters and clams.
- **Disruption of the Food Web:** By decimating populations of zooplankton and larval insects, neonics starve the fish and native waterbirds that rely on these organisms for food.
- **Threats to Coral Reefs:** Emerging research indicates that neonics can cause sublethal stress in corals, affecting their symbiotic algae and making them more vulnerable to bleaching and disease.
- **Persistence:** Because these chemicals are chemically stable, they can linger in the marine environment, leading to chronic exposure for Hawaii's nearshore ecosystems.

### **A Balanced Approach**

ABC appreciates that SB 2333 includes thoughtful exemptions for certified pesticide applicators and rapid response efforts. This ensures that the State maintains the necessary tools to manage urgent invasive species threats while eliminating the routine, high-volume use of neonicotinoids that causes chronic environmental degradation.

### **Conclusion**

By passing SB 2333, Hawai'i will join other leading jurisdictions in taking decisive action to protect its natural heritage from a class of chemicals that the science clearly shows is incompatible with healthy bird populations and resilient ecosystems.

We urge the Committee to pass SB 2333. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy



Serena Chenery

Advocacy Coordinator  
[schenery@abcbirds.org](mailto:schenery@abcbirds.org)  
240-750-4772



E. Hardy Kern III

Director of Government Relations  
[ehardykern@abcbirds.org](mailto:ehardykern@abcbirds.org)  
202-750-1412

February 05, 2026

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards III, and Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on SB2333, which prohibits the sale and possession of neonicotinoids, with exceptions. Neonicotinoids are used in pet care products and by veterinarians during the normal course of practice.

North Carolina H84 provides exemptions that cover these two areas. We recommend that similar exemptions be added to SB2333.

*13 The term does not include pet care products used to mitigate fleas, mites, ticks,  
14 heartworms, or other animals harmful to the health of a domesticated animal,  
15 personal care products used to mitigate lice or bedbugs, or any product  
16 regulated under the North Carolina Structural Pest Control Act (Article 4C of  
17 Chapter 106 of the General Statutes)."*

*23 "(8) For any person to use a neonicotinoid pesticide, unless the person is any of the  
24 following:*

*32 c. A veterinarian using the pesticide in the practice of veterinary  
33 medicine."*

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H84v1.pdf>

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott Young  
[scottyoung@summitpolicy.org](mailto:scottyoung@summitpolicy.org)  
(202) 744-5190

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

SB2333 Neonicotinoids  
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.

As written, it appears that these chemistries can be used for farm production purposes by certified pesticide applicators:

Pg4-Pg5 (8) Beginning January 1, 2027, sell, possess, or use a pesticide containing one or more neonicotoid pesticides, with the exception of use and possession by certified pesticide applicators, sale by pest control operators licensed under chapter 460J, and use by the department or other authorized state agency when engaged in rapid response efforts to control invasive or destructive species; provide that the department shall:

We appreciate this approach for the application of the neonicotinoid chemistries that are essential to farming in Hawaii. Our Hawaii climate attracts invasive species that thrive without harsh weather or predators. Past discussions have created awareness that this chemistry group can be effective for some of the crops and organic matter that are host to CRB.

More than that, neonics are an effective and valuable tool for Hawaii's agricultural production.

Neonics are part of a rotation of chemistries to economically manage destructive insect pests in many of the crops we grow. No chemistry is a standalone. It is vital to have multiple chemistries to manage insect resistance.

Responsible farmers' use of tools like neonics should have equal footing with rapid response efforts to control invasive or destructive species. It does not make sense to have neonics available for use in residential and business settings but not in crop production.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on SB2333.

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Tim Richards, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii Senate  
Honolulu, HI

**Subject: Senate Bill 2333/Relating to Neonicotinoids/Suggested Amendment**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards & Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

I am writing on behalf of the Animal Health Institute (AHI) to provide input on Senate Bill 2333, legislation that restricts the use of neonicotinoid insecticides.

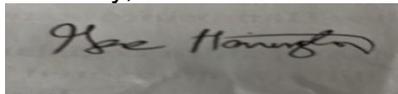
AHI is the U.S. trade association for research-based manufacturers of animal health products – the medicines that keep pets and livestock healthy. Animal health companies work to provide veterinarians, food producers, and pet owners with high-quality, effective, and innovative products. For example, veterinary care products containing neonicotinoids have proven to be highly effective in protecting pets from parasites that can cause vector diseases. However, such products would be prohibited by SB 2333, including companion animal flea and tick collars and spot-on topicals that have been reviewed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

Veterinary products containing neonicotinoids have proven to be highly effective in protecting pets from parasites that can cause vector diseases. The U.S. EPA review process is thorough in its examination of safety for animals, humans and the environment, and approved products are continually monitored following regulatory approval and marketing.

While 13 states have enacted bills or regulations classifying neonicotinoids as RUP or otherwise restricting their use – including Western states such as California, Colorado, Nevada, and Washington State – they all exempt pet care/veterinary health products either expressly or through a limited scope. Indeed, as the 2024 legislation restricting the use of neonicotinoids that Washington State enacted noted “Neonicotinoids are less toxic to mammals and vertebrates than older insecticides and have beneficial uses such as those associated with pet care and veterinary treatment.....” As such, AHI respectfully asks that you consider amending SB 2333 to expressly exempt pet care/veterinary health uses of neonicotinoid products from the measure’s use restrictions. Below is suggested language for your review amending paragraph 8 on pages 4-5.

I appreciate your time and consideration of AHI’s concerns. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please feel free to contact me at [gharrington@ahi.org](mailto:gharrington@ahi.org) or (202) 549-5934.

Sincerely,



Gene Harrington  
Senior Director, State Affairs  
Animal Health Institute

**Suggested Change to SB 2333 Exempting Pet Care & Veterinary Health Products  
Page 4-5, Paragraph (8), lines 19-21 & 1-6**

Beginning January 1, 2027, sell, possess, or use a pesticide containing one or more neonicotinoid pesticides, with the exception of use and possession by certified pesticide applicators, sale by pest control operators licensed under chapter 460J, **pet care and veterinary health uses**, and use by the department or other authorized state agency when engaged in rapid response efforts to control invasive or destructive species; provided that the department shall



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

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2333 – Relating to Neonicotinoids  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, Feb. 6, 3:01 pm, rm. 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard and members of the committee,

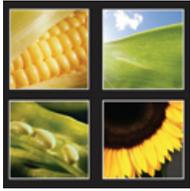
CropLife America (CLA) is the national association representing manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of pesticides products used in agriculture production. We support and promote scientific-based policy in the regulation of pesticide products at both the state and federal level. We oppose SB 2333.

While farmers rely on a variety of tools to manage pests, in urban and suburban settings, professionals and consumers also rely on the class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids (neonics). When used correctly and according to the label, neonicotinoids are highly effective in reducing targeted destructive insects to protect crops and urban environments. They protect homes, control bed bugs, and manage invasive insects such as aphids often found on bananas, papayas, and coconuts. Neonics also kill fleas, certain wood boring pests, flies, and cockroaches which is why these pesticides are popular in Hawai'i.

Farmers use an integrated approach to pest management (IPM) which allows them to reduce reliance on pesticides, using them only when and where necessary and in the smallest amounts possible. Neonicotinoids' water solubility reduces the risk for insecticide drift from the target site as they are applied directly to the soil and absorbed by plants, resulting in a safer environment for animals and humans. While concerns have been raised about the impact of neonics on bees, farmers depend on and protect bees and other pollinators because they are essential for their crops. Since many farmers are beekeepers themselves, they go to great lengths to provide habitat and forage for bee colonies, such as planting wildflowers around their cropland.

Many large-scale studies conducted by a variety of countries found that poor bee health correlates with the presence of mites, viruses, and other factors. To keep risk to bees and other beneficial insects low, farmers will (1) follow the label directions carefully, (2) restrict neonic applications to the soil or during times when bees are not foraging (like in the evening), and (3) treat only those crops which need treatment for a known pest infestation as part of their IPM approach. Although this bill may target agricultural use of neonics, the unintended consequence is that consumers and other professionals rely on these products to keep their families and properties safe from pests. And it is an important tool for farmers working hard to remain viable.

Mahalo for your time.



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SB2333 – In Opposition  
Relating to Neonicotinoids  
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 SB2333**, which prohibits the sale, possession, or use of a pesticide containing one or more neonicotinoid pesticides, under certain conditions.

Neonicotinoids are among the safest pesticides for people and the environment. Eliminating these insecticides would remove valuable crop protection tools for those farmers who do not have an RUP applicators license. As our state seeks to increase local food production and grow the agriculture industry, a measure like this represents a significant roadblock.

Hawaii's farmers practice integrated pest management, which includes using beneficial insects to reduce pests and weeds while using pesticides only when necessary. Neonicotinoids allows for this process to take place because it ensures the beneficial insects remain available to keep the other potential harmful pests in check. Eliminating low-risk, highly effective products like neonicotinoids would only force farmers to use heavier, costlier products.

Additionally, all pesticides undergo a rigorous scientific review process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began registration review of the neonicotinoid class in 2016. Since that time, experienced scientific staff have conducted detailed risk assessments looking at the benefits and impacts (both human and ecological). In 2020, the EPA released proposed interim decisions for several neonicotinoids that contained new mitigations to reduce any ecological risks, particularly to pollinators.

Hawaii farmers follow the regulations and guidance of the U.S. EPA and Department of Agriculture. Because of their expertise, these agencies are trusted to provide a regulatory structure that is both safe and necessary to support a thriving agriculture industry. To have the state categorize neonicotinoids as an RUP would be an action that ignores the U.S. EPA's science-based and rigorous regulatory review process and would create another significant challenge to our local farming community.

*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.*



253 Waiehu Beach Rd  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
808.244.0296

Wakon J. Childers, M.Ed.  
253 Waiehu Beach Rd.  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
2/6/2026

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2333  
Relating to Neonicotinoid Pesticide Prohibition Evaluations

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2333.

As a licensed pest control operator and small business owner in Hawai‘i, I am deeply concerned about the proposed prohibition on pesticides containing neonicotinoids beginning January 1, 2027. Neonicotinoids are one of the most important and effective tools currently used by pest control professionals throughout the state, particularly for controlling German cockroaches and American cockroaches in homes, restaurants, and other sensitive indoor environments.

Cockroaches are not just a nuisance; they pose serious public health risks. They are known to spread bacteria, contaminate food, and trigger asthma and allergies, especially in children and the elderly. Neonicotinoid-based products have proven to be among the most successful tools we have for eliminating cockroach infestations safely and effectively when used by licensed professionals according to label directions. Removing this class of products would significantly limit our ability to protect public health and sanitation.

SB 2333 would take away one of the most critical tools in our pest management toolbox without providing a viable or equally effective alternative. This would place an increased burden on pest control companies, restaurants, homeowners, and ultimately public health, as infestations become more difficult and costly to control.

The bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate potential impacts of neonicotinoids on pollinating insects, birds, aquatic organisms, and human health. While protecting the environment is important, it is essential to recognize that these products have already undergone extensive scientific testing and review by manufacturers and have been approved for use by the federal government. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s registration process is rigorous and science-based, evaluating both environmental and human health impacts before approving any pesticide for use.

Requiring the State of Hawai‘i to conduct additional evaluations of products that have already been federally reviewed and approved creates regulatory duplication and unnecessary costs. At a time when state resources are already limited, allocating additional funding to re-study products that have already been evaluated does not represent an efficient or effective use of public funds.



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Licensed pest control operators in Hawai'i are already trained to use these products responsibly, in targeted applications, and in accordance with strict label requirements. Prohibiting neonicotinoids under this bill would not improve safety but would instead undermine effective pest management practices that protect homes, restaurants, and communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 2333. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Wakon J. Childers, M.Ed.  
President, PCO 1251  
Bowman Termite & Pest Management, LLC; PCO 830

February 4, 2026

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Herbert M. Richards, III, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SB 2333: Neonicotinoids - Oppose**

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

On behalf of the Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA)<sup>1</sup>, I respectfully write to oppose Senate Bill 2333, which seeks to adopt restrictions on common and important pest management options using the neonicotinoid class of pesticides.

Consumer pest products allow Hawaii residents in all communities the ability to clean and protect their homes with safe and affordable products against a variety of public health pests. Without access to such products, consumers must choose between taking no action against these pests or paying someone to perform services.

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiamethoxam) available commercially for use in crop and animal agriculture, urban landscapes, domestic settings, and around structures. Neonicotinoids were developed in large part because they are both effective and a safer alternative to previously used organophosphate and carbamate insecticides.

#### **SB 2333 bans first and learns later**

This bill requires the Department to conduct a multi-year scientific reevaluation of neonicotinoids to determine their actual impacts on pollinators, aquatic life, birds, and human health, but it bans these products two years before that review even begins and five years before the Department is directed to adopt control measures based on the results. The state is being asked to ban first and learn later. This comes on top of the extensive risk assessments, registration reviews, and ecological evaluations that the U.S. EPA already conducts for these same products under federal law. Rather than building on that existing body of work, the bill duplicates it at the state level while imposing a prohibition before either review process is complete, creating a redundant and potentially conflicting regulatory track.

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<sup>1</sup> HCPA is the premier trade association representing the interests of companies engaged in the manufacture, formulation, distribution, and sale of more than \$180 billion annually in the U.S. of familiar consumer products that help household and institutional customers create cleaner and healthier environments. HCPA member companies employ hundreds of thousands of people globally. Products HCPA represents include disinfectants that kill germs in homes, hospitals, and restaurants; air fresheners, room deodorizers, and candles that eliminate odors; pest management products for home, lawn and garden, and pets; cleaning products and polishes for use throughout the home and institutions; products used to protect and improve the performance and appearance of automobiles; aerosol products and a host of other products used every day.

## **Follow the Science**

HCPA member companies manufacture neonicotinoid-based products which are used for several common insect pest management applications, including addressing bed bugs, flies, stink bugs, cockroaches, grubs, and certain invasive species. Additionally, neonicotinoid products are used for controlling pet (dog and cat) insect pests. All of these applications have been evaluated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA risk assessments focus on both ecological and human health effects – a process guided by scientific advisory panels.

Specifically, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the EPA reviews all current pesticide registrations to ensure they continue to meet the protective FIFRA risk standard in light of new information and evolving science. EPA is currently undertaking review of the class of neonicotinoids with planned completion for each category this year. HCPA believes the nuanced scientific evaluations of various applications and uses of these pesticides is best left to the rigorous process at the US EPA.

A comprehensive report by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) describe a broad range of issues or “stressors” negatively affecting bees, including habitat loss, parasites and diseases, lack of genetic diversity, climate change, pesticides, reduced forage options and pathogens. The research and data collected nationally and specific to the Hawaii shows the leading stressor to honeybee colonies is overwhelmingly varroa mites. Any legislation seeking to protect pollinator populations that ignores the most influential stressors will not be successful.

EPA’s Pollinator Protection Plan sets forth methods of using neonicotinoids and other products to further reduce the risk of exposure to pollinators. We urge lawmakers to recognize the EPA Pollinator Protection Plan and allow the federal and state regulatory system to continue to regulate the use of pesticides. The U.S. EPA and the state regulatory agencies are in strong positions to determine appropriate pesticide use through continued evaluation of the latest scientific findings on pollinators, the environment and public health. We believe members of the legislature should avoid undermining this process by prejudging outcomes in proposed legislation.

## **Overly Broad Ban Creates Prohibition Without Evidence**

HCPA appreciates the recognition that neonicotinoids have useful applications by allowing professional applicators to continue to use these products. However, by prohibiting all consumer uses and applications of neonicotinoids, common uses would be banned, even if they have no interaction with pollinators. For example, this bill would *prohibit*:

- Any indoor use
- Common pet products
- The use of pest control in animal husbandry, ranches, and farms;
- Fly traps used in and around structures;
- Perimeter treatment to stop pests from entering homes and structures;
- Consumer baits for roaches, flies and ants such as granular scatter bait;

The prohibition of sales would become law without substantial evidence that any of the uses cited above would result in significant interactions with pollinators (let alone the US EPA’s broader evaluation). It should be incumbent upon the legislature to identify in the law what specific insecticide uses it believes are contributing to the stated problem(s). Other states such as California and Washington state took this approach when regulating this issue.

The safety of consumers is the highest priority for HCPA members. HCPA member companies manufacture products that are safe when used according to the directions on the label. Manufacturers are continuously focusing on the safety of products and packaging, as well as helping to prevent improper use of their products. Users are encouraged to determine the most appropriate product for the need, and to read and follow all label directions.

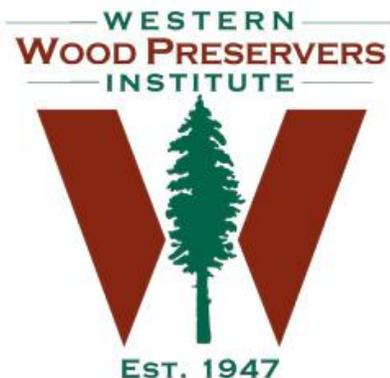
We support initiatives to promote pollinator health and believe its complexity calls for thoughtful, stakeholder-engaged solutions. We support continued research on the risks to bee health and readily acknowledge the critical importance of pollinators to our ecosystem and economy, however, in recognition of the work by the US EPA and lack of adequate science to support the measure, HCPA respectfully opposes SB 2333.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss these concerns and can be reached at [cfinarelli@thehcpa.org](mailto:cfinarelli@thehcpa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Finarelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Finarelli  
Sr. Director, State Government Relations & Public Policy



(sent via email to [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov))

January 29, 2026

Honorable Mike Gabbard  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St. Room 201  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Amendment Request for SB 2333: Relating to Neonicotinoids

Dear Senator Gabbard,

Western Wood Preservers Institute (WWPI) and Treated Wood Council (TWC) are writing to express our opposition and to propose amendments to SB 2333. The bill would prohibit the sale, possession, or use of neonicotinoid pesticide under certain conditions, starting January 1, 2027.

WWPI is a non-profit trade association based in Vancouver, Washington. We serve the interests of the preserved wood industry in western North America, including Hawaii. WWPI is a resource that works with federal, state, and local officials, as well as designers, contractors, and users over the preserved wood life cycle. TWC is an international trade association, serving the treated wood industry with more than 580 member organizations, including those with several operations in Hawaii (Hilo, Kapolei, Ookola and Wahiawa).

Preserved wood products are essential to our daily lives. The electricity we use is provided via overhead power lines supported by preserved wood utility poles. Vessels that transport cargo rely on preserved wood pilings for many dock and port functions. Commerce is transported by trains which ride on rails built on preserved wood ties that create the foundation of the railroad tracks. Vehicles are kept safely on roads with guardrails mounted on preserved wood posts. Farmers and ranchers utilize preserved posts and poles to construct fences for the livestock we consume and to support the agriculture we eat.

Preserved wood products are also required by the Hawaii State Building Code (Section 2303.1.9) for all structural lumber, which includes plywood, posts, beams, rafters, joints, trusses, studs, plates,

sills, sleepers, roof and floor sheathing, flooring and headers of new wood frame buildings and additions.

The application of wood preservative pesticides are unique as they are applied within a sealed steel cylinder or inside an enclosed building at secure facilities by trained technicians. There is no atmospheric exposure caused by the application of wood preservative pesticides. (Please see the photograph on the last page.) The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires strict adherence to the preservative pesticide label, which protects the environment, human health, and pollinators.

Due to the unique nature of applying a wood preservative, the legislature exempted wood preservatives from neonicotinoid restrictions (e.g. SB 12 introduced last year by Senator Inouye and HB 1582 introduced in 2024 by Representative Perruso).

We appreciate the legislature's understanding of how wood preservatives are applied. The EPA classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as "general use pesticides", not "restricted use pesticides", thus not requiring a certification or license to apply the pesticide. As drafted, SB 2333 would require that any wood preservative containing a neonicotinoid be applied by a certified or licensed applicator. We don't believe it is your intention to require a certified or licensed applicator to apply wood preservatives that contain neonicotinoids. We respectfully request the following amendments to SB 2333, shown below in red:

SECTION 1. Section 149A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

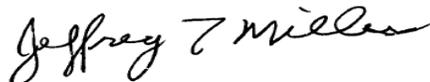
"Neonicotinoid pesticide" means a pesticide containing acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, or any other chemical designated by the department as belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals. **The term "Neonicotinoid pesticide", used in Section 149A-31 does not include a wood preservative pesticide.**

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns and to propose an amendment to SB 2333. Please contact our Director of Government Relations, Ryan Pessah at [ryan@wwpi.org](mailto:ryan@wwpi.org) or (619) 889-1666 to discuss our comments in more detail or if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Butch Bernhardt  
Executive Director  
Western Wood Preservers Institute



Jeffrey T. Miller  
President & Executive Director  
Treated Wood Council

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment





February 05, 2026

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

Subject: **SB2333**, Relating to the prohibition of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Aloha,

On behalf of the Food+Policy team, and as a student in the UHWO in the Sustainable Community Food Systems Program, and dedicated community member, I am writing in **support** of SB2333. This bill prohibits the sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides. It also requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate the impacts and adopt control measures for pollinators, birds, aquatic organisms and human health.

Restricted use of pesticides like neonicotinoids pose a serious risk to the environment, various organisms and public health. By restricting and regulating their use we are actively protecting these entities.

We need the power of the state to help employ these measures in order to safeguard pollinators, animals and the people against potential harm to their health. We need you to help protect this land, its people and everything in it by passing this measure.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB2333. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Carlin McFadden & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

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**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-2333**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:01:46 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and AEN Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity for testifying in strong support of this bill that has critical implications for the endangered yellow faced bee habitats, and all of our bird and marine wildlife along the Ka Iwi shoreline and elsewhere throughout Hawaii nei.

We are long overdue banning the use of these terrible lingering pesticides in Hawaii, so we urge you to pass this bill on behalf of our pollinators, native migratory and resident birds, aquatic wildlife, and public health.

Please do the right thing and ban the use of Neonicotinoids once and for all in Hawaii!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop, MS

Friends of Hanauma Bay I President

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:08:33 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 Gren Party of Hawai'i, we stand in full support of SB2333. Neonics are killing our pollinators as well as ourselves. Let us ban these toxic substances here in Hawai'i. Let us lead the way forward to a healthier environment and a vibrant community.

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

Humans are often exposed to neonicotinoids through water contamination, with the pesticides leaching into groundwater and aquifers. This is proven through neonicotinoids being found in human urine samples, with half of the U.S. population being exposed to these pesticides. Exposure to neonicotinoids causes many different adverse health effects, particularly for prenatal exposure among pregnant women.

In addition to human health impacts, neonics are also shown to have negative impacts on many aquatic species. Studies show that neonicotinoids are widely detected in rivers, streams, and wetlands, often exceeding regulatory toxicity limits and persisting in aquatic environments for days to weeks, raising concerns about long-term impacts on aquatic life.

While aquatic species and pollinators are the two most prominent groups of affected species, there are also many other living organisms negatively affected by neonicotinoids. Various studies find that earthworms, deer, birds (especially granivorous), and arthropods are all negatively affected by neonics as well, with effects including reduced offspring survival and health, and reduced reproductive success.

Mahalo for supporting SB 2333.

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair

Friday, February 6, 2026, 3:01 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

I stand in strong support of SB2333.

Placing stricter restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids is simply a win for our environment, our terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and the inhabitants that live on and off the land. Pesticides are highly variable in their effects on soil ecology and most are restricted in many countries due to their low biodegradability and persistence.

Neonicotinoids are a class of neurotoxic, systemic insecticides that are toxic to bees, other pollinators, aquatic organisms, native migratory and resident birds, and humans. Neonicotinoids are commonly used as seed coatings, and linger throughout the growth of the plant. These pesticides emerge from the seed through the plant, contaminating and degrading the soil, and further pollute our waterways, air, and any living thing that comes into contact.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Include in Section 2, subsection 8A:**

Evaluate, at a minimum, the potential impacts of the neonicotinoid pesticides on soil health, including aspects such as its ability to sequester carbon, sustain plant and animal productivity, and maintain or enhance water and air quality.

Soils are crucial to life on Earth and they are a dynamic natural body composed of mineral and organic solids, gases, liquids and living organisms. By allowing these pesticides to go unchecked, we comply with further degradation of the limited arable land in Hawai'i. This is a contradiction we cannot afford, especially in our efforts toward a sustainable, local food system.

Mahalo,  
Yvonne Yoro

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:41:36 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:13:10 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

Humans are often exposed to neonicotinoids through water contamination, with the pesticides leaching into groundwater and aquifers. This is proven through neonicotinoids being found in human urine samples, with half of the U.S. population being exposed to these pesticides. Exposure to neonicotinoids causes many different adverse health effects, particularly for prenatal exposure among pregnant women.

In addition to human health impacts, neonics are also shown to have negative impacts on many aquatic species. Studies show that neonicotinoids are widely detected in rivers, streams, and wetlands, often exceeding regulatory toxicity limits and persisting in aquatic environments for days to weeks, raising concerns about long-term impacts on aquatic life.

Research indicates that neonicotinoids persist in the environment, accumulating in soil, pollen, and nectar, leading to ongoing risks for pollinators. Neonicotinoids cause significant declines in Bumblebee and honey bee colony growth.

While aquatic species and pollinators are the two most prominent groups of affected species, there are also many other living organisms negatively affected by neonicotinoids. Various studies find that earthworms, deer, birds (especially granivorous), and arthropods are all negatively affected by neonics as well, with effects including reduced offspring survival and health, and reduced reproductive success.

Please support SB 2333.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 3:00:38 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:11:17 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:56:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of Bill SB2333 to limit the sale, possession, and use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids. Though effective against pest insects, neonicotinoids are able to do serious damage to non target species including pollinators such as bees, native birds, and can even become a problem to human public health.

Their ability to work their way into the environment and food webs are a cause of concern. Bill SB2333 will allow for proper restrictions, management, and continued evaluation on the effect of neonicotinoids. At the same time, the exceptions outlined allow for responsible usage of neonicotinoid pesticides as it is understandable to not completely ban them.

I urge you to deeply consider the repercussions of allowing the common usage of these pesticides on not only our islands' health, but also on the health of our people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:57:37 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 am writing in **strong support of SB 2333**.

As someone deeply committed to the health of our ‘āina and the protection of our natural resources, I believe this bill is a vital step toward safeguarding Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems and the well-being of our community.

Why This Bill is Essential

Neonicotinoids are neurotoxic insecticides that do not simply disappear after application; they persist in our environment, permanently binding to the nerve cells of insects and leaching into our precious water sources. The scientific consensus is clear—these chemicals pose a multi-faceted threat:

- **Impact on Pollinators:** Our native pollinators and honey bees are foundational to our food security and biodiversity. Neonicotinoids cause significant declines in colony growth and health by accumulating in pollen and nectar.
- **Water and Human Health:** Because these pesticides are water-soluble, they frequently contaminate our groundwater and aquifers. With neonicotinoids appearing in human urine samples across the U.S., we must act to prevent the adverse health effects associated with chronic exposure, particularly for pregnant women and children.
- **Aquatic and Terrestrial Life:** Beyond pollinators, these toxins devastate aquatic species in our streams and wetlands and negatively affect birds, deer, and earthworms, leading to reduced reproductive success and survival rates.

Protecting Our Future

By prohibiting the sale and use of these pesticides by 2027 and requiring the Department of Agriculture to evaluate their impacts, SB 2333 provides a responsible and necessary framework for transition. We cannot afford to wait until our ecosystems reach a breaking point before we take action.

I urge you to **pass SB 2333** to ensure a healthier, chemical-free future for our people, our pollinators, and our environment.

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-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:52:19 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

Humans are often exposed to neonicotinoids through water contamination, with the pesticides leaching into groundwater and aquifers. This is proven through neonicotinoids being found in human urine samples, with half of the U.S. population being exposed to these pesticides. Exposure to neonicotinoids causes many different adverse health effects, particularly for prenatal exposure among pregnant women.

In addition to human health impacts, neonics are also shown to have negative impacts on many aquatic species. Studies show that neonicotinoids are widely detected in rivers, streams, and wetlands, often exceeding regulatory toxicity limits and persisting in aquatic environments for days to weeks, raising concerns about long-term impacts on aquatic life.

Research indicates that neonicotinoids persist in the environment, accumulating in soil, pollen, and nectar, leading to ongoing risks for pollinators. Neonicotinoids cause significant declines in Bumblebee and honey bee colony growth.

While aquatic species and pollinators are the two most prominent groups of affected species, there are also many other living organisms negatively affected by neonicotinoids. Various studies find that earthworms, deer, birds (especially granivorous), and arthropods are all

negatively affected by neonics as well, with effects including reduced offspring survival and health, and reduced reproductive success.

Please support SB 2333.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:36:50 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:17:59 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we need to minimize risk to nature, especially pollinators

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:53:44 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:03:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dita Škalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB 2333.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:52:37 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

kimdonghyeon

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:53:42 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2333 that prohibits the sale, possession, or use of a pesticide containing one or more neonicotinoid pesticides, under certain conditions.

Research indicates that neonicotinoids persist in the environment, accumulating in soil, pollen, and nectar, leading to ongoing risks for pollinators. Neonicotinoids cause significant declines in Bumblebee and honey bee colony growth.

Pollinators are essential for food production. Please protect our pollinators and pass this measure.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:34:15 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aleksandra Varlamova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aleksandra Varlamova, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 2333, which prohibits the sale, possession, or use of neonicotinoid pesticides beginning January 1, 2027, under specified conditions, and requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate their impacts.

Neonicotinoids are highly toxic to pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other vital insects, as well as to native birds, aquatic life, and human health. Pollinators are essential for Hawai‘i’s ecosystems and agriculture—they help produce much of the food we rely on and maintain the health of our natural landscapes. Continued exposure to these chemicals threatens the survival of these species and undermines both environmental and food system resilience.

SB 2333 ensures that the Department of Agriculture takes a science-based approach, evaluating risks and adopting necessary control measures to protect pollinators, wildlife, and communities. By supporting this bill, Hawai‘i can safeguard its ecosystems, strengthen local agriculture, and protect public health.

I urge the committee to pass SB 2333 and take a strong step toward protecting our keiki, our pollinators, and our environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aleksandra Varlamova

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:10:55 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natalie Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Aloha,

You know when you walk on the beach and you see hundreds of dead bees?Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.  
Natalie Norberg, Pukalani Maui



**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:47:46 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

Thank you

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:04:32 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:03:29 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:00:37 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:27:25 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Weitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB 2333.  
Elizabeth Weitz, Honolulu

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:39:15 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, founder of Hānai Hives and a full-time beekeeper in Hawai‘i. I strongly support SB 2333, which would prohibit the sale, possession, or use of neonicotinoid pesticides under certain conditions beginning January 1, 2027, and require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to evaluate and address their impacts on pollinators, wildlife, and human health.

Neonicotinoids are neurotoxic insecticides that devastate pollinators by permanently damaging their nervous systems. I have personally witnessed honeybee die-offs at my own apiaries due to pesticide exposure, and I know firsthand the catastrophic effects these chemicals can have on bees and other pollinators. This decline threatens not only ecosystems but also our food security. It is long overdue that Hawai‘i takes decisive action to protect pollinators from these harmful pesticides.

These chemicals also pose risks to human health. Neonicotinoids contaminate groundwater and have been detected in human urine, raising serious concerns for prenatal and early-life exposure. They also harm aquatic species, birds, earthworms, and other beneficial organisms, disrupting entire ecosystems and reducing biodiversity.

Neonicotinoids persist in soil, pollen, and nectar, causing long-term cumulative harm that cannot be ignored. We cannot allow pesticide companies to continue un-checked devastation. SB 2333 is an essential step toward safeguarding pollinators, protecting communities, and promoting sustainable agriculture in Hawai‘i.

Please support this bill and act urgently to protect our environment, our food system, and our keiki.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katie Metzger  
Hale‘iwa, Hawai‘i

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:21:44 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect our pollinators! Neonicotinoids have negative impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:59:14 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

Malia Chun, Kekaha, Kaua'i

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:29:47 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Johannson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing as a concerned resident of Maui to ask you to support SB2333.

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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While aquatic species and pollinators are the two most prominent groups of affected species, there are also many other living organisms negatively affected by neonicotinoids. Various studies find that earthworms, deer, birds (especially granivorous), and arthropods are all negatively affected by neonics as well, with effects including reduced offspring survival and health, and reduced reproductive success.

Please support SB 2333.

Mahalo,

Amber Johansson, Makawao

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:41:00 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

Humans are often exposed to neonicotinoids through water contamination, with the pesticides leaching into groundwater and aquifers. This is proven through neonicotinoids being found in human urine samples, with half of the U.S. population being exposed to these pesticides. Exposure to neonicotinoids causes many different adverse health effects, particularly for prenatal exposure among pregnant women.

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Please support SB 2333.

Leo Nahe, Nu‘uanu

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:33:16 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2333.

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**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:57:52 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hyo Jung Kwon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

Hyo Jung Kwon, Manoa

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:54:12 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Savannah Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

Savannah Hall, Ewa Beach

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:45:01 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular insecticide class globally. They permanently bind to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them. There is a plethora of research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides, with nearly all studies reporting negative effects largely in four main areas: impacts on human health, aquatic species, pollinators, and other living organisms, although impacts to pollinators are the most well known impacts.

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Please support SB 2333.

Jennifer Cole. Anahola HI

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:44:01 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB 2333.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:34:35 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB 2333.

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:07:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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Please support SB 2333.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:52:36 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maile Risch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB 2333.

Maile Risch, Pukalani

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:28:22 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Salas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Many plants rely on pollinators for seed dispersal and pollination. Long-term exposure to neonicotinoids can affect pollinators' immunity and reproduction. Therefore, management strategies to protect pollinators are essentially aimed at protecting the natural ecosystem functions as a whole. I support Bill 2333 to protect Hawai'i's native pollinators from added environmental pressures with neonicotinoid pesticides for non-agricultural and agricultural use. This bill is especially important for Hawai'i because it would help endangered pollinator species that occupy unique and limited niches, such as the endemic yellow-faced bees. More research should prioritize identifying pollinator-friendly, affordable methods to protect crops, as awareness of neonicotinoid regulations in the United States is still growing. Only three states have recently established laws limiting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides: Vermont (Act No. 182), California (AB 363), and New Jersey (P.L. 2021, c. 386). I believe that further research is needed to evaluate the impacts of controlled neonicotinoid use better. All states should prioritize the health of native pollinators when considering pesticide use, and this bill would initiate a push to adopt pollinator-friendly alternatives in Hawai'i and nationwide.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:38:55 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brissa Christophersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in Support of SB2333 to enforce the restrictions on neonicotinoids in Hawai'i. It is vital that an evaluation on the potential impacts of this pesticides (and adopt any necessary control measures for neonicotinoid pesticide use) on pollinating insects, native migratory and resident birds, aquatic organisms, and human health.

**SB-2333**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:17:35 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2333

Neonicotinoids are powerful, neurotoxic insecticides that permanently damage insect nervous systems—and their harm doesn't stop there. These chemicals are now the most widely used insecticides in the world, despite overwhelming evidence of their devastating impacts on human health, pollinators, aquatic life, and entire ecosystems.

Neonics contaminate our water, leaching into groundwater and aquifers. They've been found in human urine, with nearly half of the U.S. population exposed, and prenatal exposure is linked to serious health risks. No one consents to this exposure—especially not pregnant women or keiki.

These pesticides persist in rivers, streams, and wetlands, often exceeding safety limits and lingering for weeks, threatening fish and aquatic insects that are the foundation of our food web. In soil, pollen, and nectar, neonics continue to poison pollinators long after application, driving declines in honey bee and bumblebee colonies that our food system depends on.

This is not a targeted solution. It is widespread ecological harm. Continuing to allow neonicotinoids means choosing short-term convenience over public health, food security, and the living systems that sustain us.

Joëll Edwards

Wainiha, Kaua'i