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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING INCIDENTS OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, research has shown that the detrimental effects of  
2 exposure to chemicals, such as pesticides, can be affected  
3 critically by the timing of the exposure, including what stage  
4 of life a person was in when the exposure occurred; and  
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6           WHEREAS, as children are still developing, their bodies are  
7 particularly susceptible to pesticide exposure; moreover, as  
8 children's bodies have a higher surface to volume ratio than  
9 adults, proportionately, pesticide exposure may affect them  
10 more; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the commercial application of pesticides has been  
13 suspected in many incidents of students and teachers becoming  
14 ill while on a school campus, including incidents occurring at  
15 Waimea Canyon School, Kauai, in November 2006 and January 2007;  
16 Kahuku High School, Oahu, in May 2007; and St. Joseph Elementary  
17 School, Oahu, in March 2008; and  
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19           WHEREAS, on January 25, 2008, due to a noxious odor, ten  
20 students and one teacher at Waimea Canyon School were sent to  
21 the emergency room with symptoms of headaches, nausea, and  
22 dizziness; and  
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24           WHEREAS, although the source of the odor has not been  
25 ascertained, the primary suspect is Syngenta Seeds,  
26 Incorporated, and its spraying of pesticides on lands it  
27 cultivates for farming that are adjacent to the school; and  
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29           WHEREAS, after the January 25th incident, the Kauai  
30 representative of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association  
31 requested the Department of Health (DOH) to test the students  
32 and teachers for toxic levels of pesticides and was told in  
33 reply that it is not the Department's practice to conduct  
34 testing; and  
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1 WHEREAS, members of the Oahu Retired Teachers Association  
2 and the Hawaii State Teacher's Association have voiced concern  
3 regarding pesticide spraying in proximity to, and on, school  
4 campuses; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2008, that the Department of Agriculture is requested  
9 to establish a working group to develop an action plan for  
10 addressing pesticide exposure at public schools and a monitoring  
11 program for schools that may be or may have been affected  
12 adversely from pesticide exposure; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall  
15 comprise:  
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17 (1) The advisory committee on pesticides, as established  
18 pursuant to section 149A-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
19 and  
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21 (2) Two representatives of the Department of Education,  
22 including a school administrator and a teacher from  
23 school districts that contain schools located in close  
24 proximity to areas where the commercial application of  
25 pesticides has or is likely to occur; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group on pesticide  
28 use in proximity to schools is requested to investigate and  
29 issue findings, including but not limited to the conditions and  
30 requirements under which commercial application of pesticides  
31 may resume following an incident of pesticide exposure at a  
32 public school; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
36 Agriculture, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the  
37 Superintendent of Education, the Director of Health, members  
38 of the advisory committee on pesticides as defined in section  
39 149A-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii State Teacher's  
40 Association, and the Governor.  
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42  
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OFFERED BY:

*Alvin S. ...*  
*Herman ...*  
MAR 12 2008