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Testimony for AGR 2/3/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2503

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Testifier position: comments only
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Comments:

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Care should be exercised in adding compliance monitoring positions to the pesticide use revolving fund. If inspector positions are added to the pesticide use revolving fund, it will be natural for inspectors to focus on activities that will increase revenue to the pesticide use revolving fund, such as to conduct pesticide product licensing inspections.

High cost, controversial activities, such as the pesticides use inspections of drift allegations may not be investigated expeditiously and thoroughly because there is only one inspector in each county (two in Hawaii County). These investigations are costly in terms of the time and effort (overtime is often required) and supplies needed to complete them. These investigations drain the fund, not add to it. Monies collected from penalties are deposited into the general fund.

There should be an incentive to conduct the pesticide use inspections that require considerable time and effort and do not add revenue to the pesticide use revolving fund. Changes in the Chapter 149A to increase civil penalties and have penalties deposited into the pesticide use revolving fund, rather than the general fund, might provide that incentive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Robert Boesch