
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE EFFECTS OF ATRAZINE ON HUMAN HEALTH.

1 WHEREAS, more than sixty million pounds of atrazine, a
2 weed-killing pesticide, is used annually in the United States;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the toxicity of atrazine is well documented and
6 has been shown to have adverse endocrine effects in amphibians,
7 mammals, and humans; and
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9 WHEREAS, there is evidence that atrazine exposure is
10 associated with low sperm counts and poor motility in exposed
11 adult men, and that pre-birth atrazine exposure is associated
12 with low birth weight and abnormal development of the gut wall
13 in infants; and
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15 WHEREAS, in laboratory mammals, exposure to atrazine is
16 associated with abnormal reproductive system development,
17 impaired prostate gland formation, and abnormal breast tissue
18 development; and
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20 WHEREAS, in aquatic life, exposure to atrazine is
21 associated with abnormal reproductive system development,
22 impaired reproduction, and impaired immune system function; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
25 acknowledges that atrazine may have potential adverse effects on
26 fish, including organ tissue disease, disruption to the
27 endocrine and olfactory systems, and reduced reproductive
28 function; and
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30 WHEREAS, according to data from the Environmental
31 Protection Agency Atrazine Monitoring Program, high levels of
32 atrazine are also evident in drinking water systems and more



1 than ninety per cent of the samples taken in 139 water systems
2 had measurable levels of atrazine in both 2003 and 2004; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1991, Germany and Italy banned the use of
5 atrazine; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 2003, European regulators announced a ban on
8 the pesticide throughout the European Union; and

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10 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture
11 estimates that a ban on atrazine would result in crop losses of
12 only 1.19 per cent and decrease corn acreage by only 2.3 per
13 cent; and

14
15 WHEREAS, since banning atrazine nearly twenty years ago,
16 Italy and Germany have not experienced a reduction of corn
17 productivity or total acreage of land in production; and

18
19 WHEREAS, atrazine has been used for decades in Hawaii to
20 treat sugarcane, pineapple, and more recently seed corn; and

21
22 WHEREAS, rainfall sweeps atrazine into rivers and streams,
23 threatening plant and aquatic life; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture does not test for
26 atrazine because of the lack of inspectors, and atrazine users
27 are largely left to police themselves with regard to compliance
28 with atrazine guidelines promulgated by the Environmental
29 Protection Agency that limit spraying and require setbacks from
30 water resources; and

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32 WHEREAS, tests run by the Department of Health repeatedly
33 show that drinking water in the State, and mostly in the County
34 of Hawaii, is contaminated with low levels of atrazine; and

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36 WHEREAS, a report by the Soil/Water/Air Protection
37 Enterprise shows that Hawaii is ranked tenth among the states
38 for the percentage of its population exposed to atrazine in
39 drinking water; and

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1 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to be at
2 the forefront of a monitoring and regulatory effort to protect
3 Hawaii residents from the potential adverse effects of chronic
4 atrazine exposure; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
8 Session of 2013, that the Director of Health is requested to
9 establish a task force to study the effects of atrazine on human
10 health; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
13 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task force and
14 invite the following persons, or their respective designees, to
15 serve as members of the task force:
16

- 17 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- 18 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 19 (3) Two members, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives; and
21 (4) A representative of a community environmental group;
22 and
23 (4) A representative of a community environmental group;
24 and
25 and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
28 requested to provide all administrative, technical,
29 professional, and clerical support required by the task force
30 for matters pertaining to this measure; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
33 report to the Legislature its findings and recommendations,
34 including any proposed legislation, no later than October 31,
35 2013; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force cease to exist
38 on June 30, 2014; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and the
3 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

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