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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO  
ADDRESS THE DATA GAP ON AIR, SURFACE WATER, AND NEAR SHORE  
EFFECTS OF ATRAZINE.

1           WHEREAS, more than 60,000,000 pounds of atrazine, a weed-  
2 killing pesticide, is used annually in the United States; and

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4           WHEREAS, the toxicity of atrazine is well documented and  
5 has been shown to have adverse endocrine effects in amphibians,  
6 mammals, and humans; and

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8           WHEREAS, there is evidence that atrazine exposure is  
9 associated with low sperm counts and poor motility in exposed  
10 adult men, and that pre-birth atrazine exposure is associated  
11 with low birth weight and abnormal development of the gut wall  
12 in infants; and

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14           WHEREAS, in laboratory mammals, exposure to atrazine is  
15 associated with abnormal reproductive system development,  
16 impaired prostate gland formation, and abnormal breast tissue  
17 development; and

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19           WHEREAS, in aquatic life, exposure to atrazine is  
20 associated with abnormal reproductive system development,  
21 impaired reproduction, and impaired immune system function; and

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23           WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 acknowledges that atrazine may have potential adverse effects on  
25 fish, including organ tissue disease, disruption to the  
26 endocrine and olfactory systems, and reduced reproductive  
27 function; and

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29           WHEREAS, according to data from the Environmental  
30 Protection Agency Atrazine Monitoring Program, high levels of  
31 atrazine are also evident in drinking water systems and more  
32 than 90 percent of the samples taken in 139 water systems had  
33 measurable levels of atrazine in both 2003 and 2004; and



1           WHEREAS, in 1991, Germany and Italy banned the use of  
2 atrazine; and

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

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7           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
8 estimates that a ban on atrazine would result in crop losses of  
9 only 1.19 percent and decrease corn acreage by only 2.3 percent;  
10 and

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12           WHEREAS, since banning atrazine nearly 20 years ago, Italy  
13 and Germany have not experienced a reduction of corn  
14 productivity or total acreage of land in production; and

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

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19           WHEREAS, rainfall sweeps atrazine into rivers and streams,  
20 threatening plant and aquatic life and contaminating Hawaii's  
21 drinking water; and

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

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

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

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40           WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to be at  
41 the forefront of a monitoring and regulatory effort to protect



1 Hawaii residents from the potential adverse effects of chronic  
2 atrazine exposure; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2013, that the Director of Health is requested to  
7 develop partnerships to address the data gap on air, surface  
8 water, and nearshore effects of atrazine; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
11 requested to report to the Legislature progress, findings, and  
12 recommendations, including any proposed legislation arising from  
13 its partnership activities, no later than October 31, 2013; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

