
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;
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35 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to be at
36 the forefront of a monitoring and regulatory effort to protect
37 Hawaii residents from the potential adverse effects of chronic
38 atrazine exposure; now, therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
42 Session of 2013, that the Director of Health is requested to
43 develop partnerships to address the data gap on air, surface
44 water, and nearshore effects of atrazine; and



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

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

