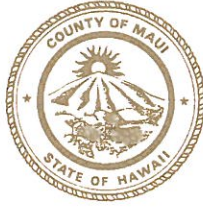


ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia

COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

**TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI**

**BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Thursday, January 23, 2014, 2:45 p.m., Conference Rm. 229

**SENATE BILL 2110
RELATING TO REGULATION OF PESTICIDES**

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for this opportunity to testimony **IN SUPPORT** of **SB2110** relating to Regulation of Pesticides.

This measure appropriates funds necessary to carry out the purposes of the Hawaii Pesticides Law, Chapter 194A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including the restoration of three additional inspector positions for the Department of Agriculture. As Mayor of the County of Maui, I am respectfully requesting added inspector positions for the islands of Maui and Molokai.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

- In 2010, budget shortfalls resulted in the elimination of agriculture inspection positions needed to administer Chapter 149A. This reduction in Ag inspectors has resulted in an adverse impact to the public's health, safety and welfare.
- The Hawaii Pesticides Law, Chapter 149A, HRS, authorizes the department of agriculture to regulate the sale and use of pesticides, and provides a framework to address public concerns. Restoring the agriculture inspector positions will help assure that standards for pesticide regulation are responsibly met under HRS Chapter 149A.
- This measure will also help address our ongoing efforts to deal with invasive species such as miconia, coqui frogs, axis deer, and most recently – the little fire ant. The invasive stinging fire ant was recently confirmed to have made its way from Hawaii Island to Oahu and Maui. If not quickly dealt with, these invasive species will do irreparable harm to our economy and human health, and essentially create an environmental crisis.
- Added inspector staffing is vital for us as Maui County is a three-island county, and with each island having its own, unique agricultural challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 2110.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: aubrie.marie@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2110 on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2014 3:19:07 PM

SB2110

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubrie Marie Allen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support SB2110 Aloha Honorable Chair Nishihara and Senators, I am thoroughly concerned about Hawaii pesticide exposure as the result of long term plantation industrial farming and current petrochemical operations in Hawaii. Please support SB2110 to appropriate funding and hire three additional and much needed pesticide regulators. Thank you and aloha. Best Regards,

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Taro Security and Purity Task Force
TESTIMONY

Senate Bill SB2110
RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF PESTICIDES

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force is an independent legislative body mandated under Hawai'i State Legislature Act 211 to address a broad range of issues facing taro and taro farmers across the State. Its members, who include taro farmers from each island, State agencies and institutions, and other organizations, are tasked with advising lawmakers on taro-related policy matters along with supporting the implementation of measures and programs of benefit to taro and taro farmers. In recognition of the State of Hawai'i's severe dependence on outside imports to meet the nutritional demands of a growing population, the task force has identified alternative farming methods and community education as primary concerns in its efforts to support future food security in the State.

During the last five years of fiscal crisis, the State of Hawai'i experienced a significant reduction in personnel and capacity to enforce HRS Chapter 149A, the Hawaii Pesticides Law. In the interest of public health and safety, SB2110 seeks to remedy this issue of insufficient staffing levels to properly monitor and regulate restricted use pesticides by appropriating general revenue funds to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

The Taro Task Force is particularly concerned with water quality as it pertains to the regulation of restricted use pesticides. The qualitative and quantitative impacts of agricultural pesticide use on adjacent communities from pesticide drift, as well as river and inshore water quality due to run-off, are of high concern to the taro growing community. Monitoring of off-site impacts and the enforcement of Chapter 149A is greatly needed to protect the health and well being of our rural communities, including those commercial and subsistence taro growers concerned about the water quality downstream of or adjacent to areas of high restricted pesticide use. Due to inadequate oversight of pesticide use, the task force believes that the State of Hawai'i and the Counties need to take a proactive approach in protecting impacted communities through ongoing monitoring, for which SB 2110 provides support.

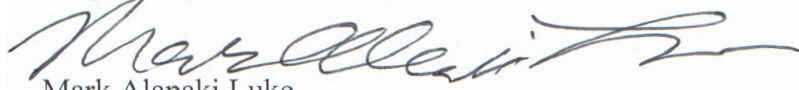
The Taro Task Force also recommends that the language in Section 1 of SB2110 be amended. Section 1 currently reads: "The legislature finds that many Hawaii residents are becoming increasingly concerned about restricted use pesticides applied by major seed companies." The task force recommends "applied by major seed companies" be deleted, acknowledging that there are many other users of restricted pesticides, including urban pest control companies, state and county agencies, and other industrial and agricultural enterprises. The task force also recommends a reassessment of the total general funds needed for appropriation to the HDOA. A total cost of \$555,000 for three inspectors (\$185,000 each) appears to be excessive, even accounting for costs such as travel and supplies. We would encourage the hiring of additional inspectors for this amount.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports the intent of this measure to enable State regulatory officials to better execute their duties. We trust that our comments

Taro Security and Purity Task Force
TESTIMONY

on behalf of the taro growing community regarding regulation of pesticide use will be weighed appropriately.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Alapaki Luke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Alapaki Luke
Taro Security and Purity Task Force
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jess.pojas@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2110 on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2014 1:34:56 PM

SB2110

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jess Pojas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an Environmental Scientist, citizen of the United States and resident of the state of Hawaii, I support this request to have more pesticide regulators investigating the effects of these chemicals on our people.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: kailaniranoa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2110 on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2014 3:11:07 PM

SB2110

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Kailani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support SB2110 Aloha Honorable Chair Nishihara and Senators, I am thoroughly concerned about Hawaii pesticide exposure as the result of long term plantation industrial farming and current petrochemical operations in Hawaii. Please support SB2110 to appropriate funding and hire three additional and much needed pesticide regulators. Thank you and aloha. Best Regards, Julie Kailani Ranoa

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Cc: mambler2002@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2110 on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2014 2:08:18 PM

SB2110

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Ambler	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: HDOA by statute has the authority to collect their own fees to fund the enforcement directly from the entities associated with the pesticide use in Hawaii: §149A-13.5 Pesticide use revolving fund; pesticide training workshops; training fee. (a) There is established within the treasury of the State, a pesticide use revolving fund. The fund shall be administered by the department for the purposes of this section. The fund shall consist of: (1) Licensing and registration fees and charges collected by the department under section 149A-13(b); and (2) All fees collected by the department through the collection of training fees in accordance with subsection (c). (b) [Repeal and reenactment of subsection (b) on June 30, 2015. L 2010, c 168, §4.] Moneys in the pesticide use revolving fund shall be expended by the department to support the pesticide program's registration and licensing, certification and education, and compliance monitoring activities. The department shall also expend revolving fund moneys on the establishment of pesticide training workshops, educational programs, development of integrated pest management strategies, and other services for pesticide users such as the agricultural pest control industry, the structural pest control industry, and consumer users of pesticides, which provide pesticide instruction in areas including the collection, disposal, and recycling of pesticide containers and all other pesticide services deemed necessary by the department. Moneys from the revolving fund may be used for personnel, services, materials, and equipment for the purposes of this section. Moneys expended by the department from the pesticide use revolving fund for training workshops, educational programs, and other services for the agricultural pest control industry, the structural pest control industry, and consumer groups shall be expended in a manner that appropriately addresses the needs of each category of pesticide user. (c) The department may set fees for the educational services and training provided under this section. (d) All interest earned on the deposit or investment of the moneys in the fund shall become a part of the fund. (e) All unobligated, unencumbered, or unexpended funds remaining in the fund in excess of \$250,000 at the close of each fiscal year shall lapse to the state general fund. (f) The department shall submit an annual report to the legislature on all moneys deposited into, and disbursed from, the pesticide use revolving fund. The report shall be submitted to the legislature not fewer than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report shall group all moneys deposited into, and disbursed from, the revolving fund

according to the categories established in subsections (a) to (e). [L 1996, c 281, §1; am L 2000, c 154, §2; am L 2010, c 168, §2]

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2110 on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:48:08 PM

SB2110

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 23, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Absolutely this is a much needed Bill, to return the inspector positions to HDOA. Links between improper pesticide use and children's ability to learn is now well documented. We need to protect the health of our communities by having enough help to oversee the restricted use and permitted only pesticides in wide use in Hawaii's agriculture.

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