
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Pollination by honeybees and other pollinators
2 is a vital part of agricultural production. One-third of the
3 food produced in North America and nearly ninety-five varieties
4 of fruits and other foods rely on pollination by honeybees.
5 Over the past several years, however, bee colony collapses and
6 excessive bee mortality have reached record highs, with some
7 beekeepers losing large portions of their operations and
8 suffering reduced production of honey.

9 Scientists have linked the use of systemic neonicotinoid
10 insecticides to the rapid decline of honeybees and other
11 pollinators as well as to the deterioration of pollinator
12 health. As systemic insecticides, the neonicotinoid
13 insecticides are absorbed into treated plants and distributed
14 throughout their vascular systems. As a result, treating a
15 plant or coating a seed with a neonicotinoid insecticide can
16 render many parts of the plant toxic to insects, including the
17 roots, leaves, stems, flowers, nectar, pollen, and guttation



1 fluid. Neonicotinoid insecticides are also persistent in soil
2 and are easily transported through air, dust, and water.

3 Neonicotinoid insecticides damage the central nervous
4 system of insects, causing tremors, paralysis, and death.
5 Neonicotinoid insecticides also have sublethal effects,
6 including impaired foraging and feeding behavior,
7 disorientation, weakened immunity, delayed larval development,
8 and increased susceptibility to viruses, diseases, and
9 parasites.

10 Neonicotinoids can also kill or weaken beneficial
11 invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife, through direct and
12 indirect effects. Scientists have found that seed coatings
13 containing neonicotinoid insecticide are harmful to birds.
14 Recent scientific study has demonstrated that consumption of a
15 single corn kernel coated with neonicotinoid insecticide can
16 kill a medium-sized songbird. Environmental contaminations by
17 neonicotinoid insecticides harm not only honeybees, but other
18 pollinators, including beneficial insects, birds, and bats.

19 In 2013, the European Union voted to suspend use of three
20 major neonicotinoid insecticides, imidacloprid, clothianidin,
21 and thiamethoxam, on certain agricultural crops pending a review



1 of their safety. Other states, including New York, have
2 restricted the use of some neonicotinoid insecticides because of
3 their risks. In 2014, the United States Fish and Wildlife
4 Service announced that it would phase out uses of neonicotinoid
5 insecticides in all national wildlife refuges, including those
6 in Hawaii, by January 2016, due to their harmful effects on
7 wildlife.

8 The purposes of this Act are to protect Hawaii's honeybees,
9 insects, bats, birds, and other pollinators from exposure to
10 neonicotinoid insecticides and to defend and protect Hawaii's
11 agricultural economy and natural ecosystems.

12 This Act shall be liberally construed to fulfill these
13 purposes.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 149A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§149A- County authority. Any county may adopt a rule
18 or ordinance that places stricter limitations on the use of
19 neonicotinoid insecticides than those placed by this chapter or
20 rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. In the case of a
21 conflict between the requirements or limitations of this chapter



1 and any county rule or ordinance regarding the use of
2 neonicotinoid insecticides, the more restrictive requirements
3 shall apply."

4 SECTION 3. Section 149A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
6 and to read as follows:

7 "Neonicotinoid insecticide" means any systemic pesticide
8 with a common mode of action that affects the central nervous
9 system of insects containing any of the following active
10 ingredients: acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran,
11 imidacloprid, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam, and any other new
12 ingredients as may be identified by rule adopted by the
13 department pursuant to chapter 91."

14 SECTION 4. Section 149A-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 **§149A-31 Prohibited acts.** No person shall:

17 (1) Use any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its
18 label, except that it shall not be unlawful to:

19 (A) Apply a pesticide at any dosage, concentration,
20 or frequency less than that specified on the
21 label or labeling; provided that the efficacy of



- 1 the pesticide is maintained and further provided
2 that, when a pesticide is applied by a commercial
3 applicator, the deviation from the label
4 recommendations must be with the consent of the
5 purchaser of the pesticide application services;
- 6 (B) Apply a pesticide against any target pest not
7 specified in the labeling if the application is
8 to a crop, animal, or site specified on the label
9 or labeling; provided that the label or labeling
10 does not specifically prohibit the use on pests
11 other than those listed on the label or labeling;
- 12 (C) Employ any method of application not prohibited
13 by the labeling;
- 14 (D) Mix a pesticide or pesticides with a fertilizer
15 when such mixture is not prohibited by the label
16 or labeling; or
- 17 (E) Use in a manner determined by rule not to be an
18 unlawful act;
- 19 (2) Use, store, transport, or discard any pesticide or
20 pesticide container in any manner which would have
21 unreasonable adverse effects on the environment;



- 1 (3) Use or apply restricted use pesticides unless the
2 person is a certified pesticide applicator or under
3 the direct supervision of a certified pesticide
4 applicator with a valid certificate issued pursuant to
5 rules adopted under section 149A-33(1); provided that
6 it shall be prohibited to use or apply a restricted
7 use pesticide for structural pest control uses for a
8 fee or trading of services, unless the user or
9 applicator is a pest control operator or is employed
10 by a pest control operator licensed under chapter
11 460J;
- 12 (4) Use or apply pesticides in any manner that has been
13 suspended, canceled, or restricted pursuant to section
14 149A-32.5;
- 15 (5) Falsify any record or report required to be made or
16 maintained by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter;
17 [~~or~~]
- 18 (6) Fill with water, through a hose, pipe, or other
19 similar transmission system, any tank, implement,
20 apparatus, or equipment used to disperse pesticides,
21 unless the tank, implement, apparatus, equipment,



1 hose, pipe, or other similar transmission system is
 2 equipped with an air gap or a reduced-pressure
 3 principle backflow device meeting the requirements
 4 under section 340E-2 and the rules adopted
 5 thereunder[-]; or

6 (7) After June 30, 2017, apply any neonicotinoid
 7 insecticide without a permit issued by the department
 8 of agriculture or any agency of the federal
 9 government. For the purposes of this paragraph,
 10 application of any neonicotinoid insecticide shall
 11 include planting any seeds coated with any
 12 neonicotinoid insecticide."

13 SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 2017, the department
 14 of agriculture shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii
 15 Revised Statutes, to carry out and effectuate the purposes of
 16 this Act. The rules shall contain procedures to obtain a permit
 17 for the one-time use of a neonicotinoid insecticide in instances
 18 where:

19 (1) The pest situation poses an immediate threat to human
 20 health or the environment; and



1 (2) There is no viable alternative to the use of the
2 proposed neonicotinoid insecticide.

3 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 7. If any provision of this Act, or the
7 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
8 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
9 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
10 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
11 of this Act are severable.

12 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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JAN 15 2016



H.B. NO. 1594

Report Title:

Neonicotinoid Insecticide; Pesticides; Agriculture

Description:

Prohibits application of neonicotinoid insecticides without a permit after 6/30/17 to protect honeybees and other pollinating animals.

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