

**GM 504**

Roger C. Brewer  
Hawai'i Department of Health  
February 25, 2016

Subject: Nomination to Advisory Committee on Pesticides

**1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?**

RB: Pesticides pose both benefits and potential harm to society and the environment. I enjoy working with others to use science, economics and public interest to find an optimal balance between these issues and develop rational policy regulations.

**2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?**

RB: My primary role would be to provide science-based, technical support regarding the potential harm to human health and the environment that could be posed by use of a particular pesticide. My background includes determining the threat posed to drinking water aquifers by pesticides and other chemicals. I also review the health risk posed to people who come in contact with potentially hazardous chemicals and threats to aquatic habitats. I would also take part in discussions regarding the pros and cons of using a particular pesticide with respect to economic benefit and potential environmental harm.

**3. Why do believe that you are qualified for the position?**

RB: I grew up in a farming area and both of my parents were raised on or around farms. I am well aware of the need for a reliable source of food and the benefits of modern farming practices. That said, a large part of my career over the past twenty years involved the investigation and remediation of environmental contamination associated with "legacy chemicals," including pesticides used in the 1910s through the 1970s. I am likewise aware of the need for good science when evaluating the pros and cons of pesticide use and the potential risk to the environment.

**4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

RB: I hope to help ensure that science plays a key role in public policy and regulations regarding the use of pesticides in Hawai'i.

**5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?**

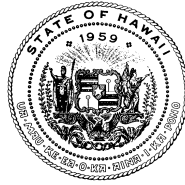
RB: I have significant technical experience in the fate of chemicals in the environment and assessment of the potential risk to human health and the environment posed by exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals. I have numerous contacts for outside technical support as needed. I enjoy the challenge of addressing issues that do not have black-and-white answers. I have a reputation for being able to balance environmental protection with economic needs. My technical background will provide the Committee with quick access to science-based information on the potential environmental risk posed by a specific pesticide under review. My regulatory experience in prioritizing risks and making decisions regarding the need to proceed or discontinue the investigation of a contaminated site will assist the Committee in making decisions regarding place restrictions on specific pesticides.

**6. Name one previous experience that you make you stand out? How would this benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?**

RB: I helped oversee development of Department of Health guidance for the investigation of pesticide contamination at former sugar cane operations across Hawai'i. This included the detailed review of historical pesticide use and development of a prioritization scheme to identify especially high-risk pesticides. We considered such factors as the extent of past use, toxicity and mobility, and persistence in the environment in order to screen hundreds of pesticides and identify a relatively short list of high-priority chemicals for more detailed investigation. This has given me a good background in the history of pesticide use in Hawai'i. I also gained experience in quickly identifying and screening out low-risk chemicals so that more time and effort can be focused on review of chemicals that could pose significant risk if not managed properly. I have also worked with experts at the University of Hawai'i to evaluate the threat posed to our drinking water aquifers by long-term leaching of pesticides from soils. This has also been incorporated into HDOH guidance.

**7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?**

RB: None that I am aware of.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM504**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROGER BREWER,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND  
AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: **February 29, 2016**  
Time: **2:45 P.M.**

Room Number: **224**

1 **Department Testimony:**

2 The Department of Health (DOH) offers strong support for Dr. Roger Brewer's reappointment to  
3 the Pesticide Advisory Committee. Dr. Brewer is an acknowledged expert in the field of  
4 environmental hazard evaluation and has brought respect and national recognition to the DOH.  
5 Dr. Brewer has assisted the Department with several high profile emerging environmental issues  
6 such as chromium-6 in groundwater, pharmaceuticals in wastewater, and investigation of legacy  
7 pesticides at former sugarcane operations. We rely upon Dr. Brewer's rigorous scientific  
8 evaluation of these complex issues, and at the same time, his measured, common sense approach  
9 in solving problems. Dr. Brewer will be an invaluable asset to the Pesticide Advisory  
10 Committee

11 One of the tasks of the Pesticide Advisory Committee is to look at the registration of pesticides  
12 that may cause a threat to Hawaii's vulnerable and valuable groundwater. Knowledge on the fate  
13 and transport of pesticides is essential in evaluating the risk of groundwater contamination from  
14 currently used pesticides. Dr. Brewer actually developed the State's requirements and  
15 techniques for investigating historical pesticide contamination on former agricultural properties.  
16 His expertise in the fate and transport of chemicals will greatly enhance the Pesticide Advisory  
17 Committee's ability to make sound scientific decisions on the risk of currently used pesticides in  
18 Hawaii.

- 1 In addition to his individual contributions, Dr. Brewer is a responsive and collaborative team
- 2 player. Engineers and specialists throughout the DOH Environmental Health Administration
- 3 rely on Dr. Brewer for day-to-day advice and counsel on complex environmental issues.
  
- 4 The Pesticide Advisory Committee would truly benefit from reappointing Dr. Brewer to this
- 5 committee.
  
- 6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dylanarm@hawaii.edu](mailto:dylanarm@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM504 on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:29:22 PM

---

**GM504**

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ashman.janet@gmail.com](mailto:ashman.janet@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM504 on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, February 28, 2016 2:37:43 PM

---

**GM504**

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)