



House Committee on Agriculture

**Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports HB2258: Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

HB2258 "appropriates funds to support three additional inspector positions on the island of Oahu within the department of agriculture's pesticides branch." Currently, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Pesticides Branch has four restricted use pesticide inspectors for the entire state, one for each major island. These inspectors are overwhelmed with land to inspect, which leads to inadequate oversight of high-volume pesticide users.

As an organization dedicated to the preservation of human health and the environment, this lack of oversight is particularly concerning to our members because of the expanding footprint of the GE-Seed industry. In 2009, for the first time, Hawai'i had more acres planted to seed crops than to fruit (excluding pineapples) and vegetables combined<sup>1</sup>. Records from the Kaua'i 'Good Neighbor Program' show that, between December 2013 to Augusts 2015, a total application of 4,018.51 gallons and 2,389.86 pounds of concentrated Restricted Use Pesticides only on Kaua'i, by the five participating companies (Syngenta, Pioneer (DuPont), Dow AgroSciences, BASF and Kaua'i Coffee). These acres are thought to be located within the 15,000 acres leased or owned by the companies participating in the program; however, information regarding the locations of where these pesticides are applied is not reported by this program. We wonder whether or not the department has the capacity to ensure proper oversight of this industry if it does expand along with it.

Hawai'i has a rich history in protecting the community and island interests. Pesticide exposure and drift, in utero and early life, has led to children developing neurodevelopmental disabilities like autism and ADHD<sup>ii,iii,iv,v</sup>, leukemia<sup>vi,vii,viii</sup>, and asthma<sup>ix,x,xi</sup>. Give the significant risks associated with pesticide exposure and drift, increasing the number of inspector positions is a step in the right direction.

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety applauds the bill's potential to increase the desperately needed oversight of pesticide application. Nonetheless, I submit this testimony to point out that this bill does not resolve the lack of transparency and mandatory disclosure that is currently lacking at

the state level. Aside from increasing the number of inspectors, the bill does not otherwise regulate pesticide use and monitoring within the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any follow up questions or provide additional analysis.

Respectfully,



Ashley Lukens  
Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

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- <sup>i</sup> HASB (various years) Hawai'i Agricultural Statistics Bulletins. Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and US Dept. of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. Based on data from various annual bulletins. [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Hawaii/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Hawaii/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/).
- <sup>ii</sup> Rauh VA, Garfinkel R, Perera FP, Andrews HF, Hoepner L, Barr DB, Whitehead R, Tang D, Whyatt R (2006) Impact of prenatal chlorpyrifos exposure on neurodevelopment in the first 3 years of life among inner-city children. *Pediatric* 118(6): e1845-e1859. [www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/118/6/e1845](http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/118/6/e1845).
- <sup>iii</sup> Roberts EM, English PB, Grether JK, Windham GC, Somberg L, Wolf C (2007) Maternal Residence near Agricultural Pesticide Applications and Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children in the California Central Valley. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 115(10): 1482-1489.
- <sup>iv</sup> Eskenazi B, Marks AR, Bradman A, Harley K, Barr DB, Johnson C, Morga N, Jewell NP(2007) Organophosphate pesticide exposure and neurodevelopment in young Mexican-American children. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 115(5): 792-798.
- <sup>v</sup> Bouchard MF, Chevri er J, Harley KG, Kogut K, Vedar M, Calderon N, Trujilo C, Johnson C, Bradman A, Barr DB, Eskenazi B (2011) Prenatal exposure to organophosphate pesticides and IQ in 7-year-old children. *Environmental Health Perspective* 119(8): 1189-1195.
- <sup>vi</sup> Infante-Rivard C, Labuda D, Krajinovic M, Sinnott D (1999) Risk of childhood leukemia associated with exposure to pesticides and with gene polymorphisms. *Epidemiology* 10(5): 481-487.
- <sup>vii</sup> Roberts JR, Karr CJ (2012) Pesticide Exposure in Children. Council on Environmental Health. *Pediatrics* 130(6): e1757-e1763. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/6/e1757.full.html>.
- <sup>viii</sup> Monge P, Wesseling C, Guardado J, Lundberg I, Ahlbom A, Cantor KP, Weiderpass E, Partanen T (2007) Parental occupational exposure to pesticides and the risk of childhood leukemia in Costa Rica. *Scandinavian Journal Work Environmental Health* 33(4): 293-303.
- <sup>ix</sup> Hoppin JA, Umbach DM, London SJ, Alavanja MCR, Sandler DP (2002) Chemical predictors of wheeze among farmer pesticide applicators in the Agricultural Health Study. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 165: 683-689.
- <sup>x</sup> Salam MT, Li YF, Langholz B, Gilliland FD, Children's Health Study (2004) Early life environmental risk factors for asthma: findings from the Children's Health Study. *Environmental Health Perspective* 112(6): 760-765.
- <sup>xi</sup> Strina A, Barreto ML, Cooper PH, Rodrigues LC (2014) Risk factors for non-atopic asthma/wheeze in children and adolescents: a systematic review. *Emerging Themes in Epidemiology* 11(5). <http://www.ete-online.com/content/11/1/5>.



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February 11, 2016

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2258  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports adequate funding for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, including the pesticide branch enforcement staff.**

However, we do not agree with the premise of the measure, that there is insufficient oversight of restricted use pesticides. This is simply untrue. Currently, inspectors on each island respond promptly to any and all community calls about possible pesticide odors or other complaints. Additionally, they conduct periodic inspections of facilities and pesticide applicators who use restricted use pesticides.

In fact, farmers who use restricted use pesticides are highly trained, tested, and specifically *certified* by the Department to understand pesticides and follow the strict federal and state regulations. Even those farmers and their employees who use only "general use" pesticides are required to have been trained under the EPA Agricultural Worker Protection Standard regulation which contains requirements for protective equipment, detailed information on pesticide applications, safety training, and other elements to prevent poisoning and injury from pesticides.

Unfortunately, fostered by constant rhetoric and outreach from extremist activist groups (most not locally-based), there has developed a disconnect between some community members' perception of pesticide regulation and reality.

To eliminate this misconception, we defer to the Department of Agriculture to clarify what their specific Pesticide Branch staffing needs are. We fully support additional inspector positions where they are deemed necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:45 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** dale@hicattle.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2258 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2258**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>       | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dale Sandlin        | Hawaii Cattlemens Council | 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.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:35 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** babesagainstbiotech@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2258 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB2258**

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nomi Carmona        | Babes Against Biotech | Support                   | Yes                       |

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.

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# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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### Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

### OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming

In Strong Support to HB 2258  
Relating to Additional Funding for Agriculture Inspectors

### House Committee on Agriculture

Thursday 02-11-16 9:00 am in conference room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice chair Onishi and members of the committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA strongly supports HB 2258 which provides three additional agriculture inspectors for the island of Oahu.

Although pesticides are used throughout the world and in Hawaii to control disease carriers such as mosquitoes, ticks, and rodents; in our drinking water to prevent disease; in our homes to prevent destruction by termites, and in our watersheds to control invasive species, public attention and concern has recently focused on pesticides that are used on Hawaii's farms to control weeds, insect infestation, and diseases that can completely destroy a crop.

Our member companies are very aware of their responsibility to use pesticides properly and they take this duty very seriously. They use trained employees who are experienced in pesticide application and who apply them only when necessary. The safety of our employees and the community is of utmost importance to us and we follow the strict federal and State pesticide laws and regulations carefully. We are regularly inspected by the State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Branch whose duty is to enforce these laws.

Although we have confidence in the ability of the DOA to enforce pesticide laws and to ensure that the public is protected, we also recognize that increased funding and capacity will strengthen the Department and help it address community concerns. We support that mission.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha  
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

February 11, 2016  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2258**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2258. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to support three additional inspector positions on the island of Oahu within the department of agriculture's pesticides branch. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

The addition of these inspectors on Oahu will help bolster the enforcement capacity to respond to pesticide-related complaints and provide greater regulatory oversight. Additional inspectors are needed not only to regulate how restricted use pesticides are being used but to regulate the sale, transport and use of all pesticides, including restricted and general use, on Oahu.

Inspections and investigations are conducted with the Agriculture Sector (small and large producers), Urban Commercial Sector, Landscaping Industry, water treatment facilities, schools, State and County entities, and with homeowners in accordance with the Hawaii Pesticides Law.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our testimony

