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Vice President  
Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HCR 119/HR 109 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ITS CURRENT USAGE AND PLANS FOR FUTURE USAGE OF GLYPHOSATE AND GLYPHOSATE-CONTAINING HERBICIDES ON AND AROUND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROPERTIES, INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports** HCR 119/HR 109, requesting the Department of Education to report its current usage and plans for future usage of glyphosate and glyphosate-containing herbicides on and around Department of Education properties, including schools and playgrounds.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) evaluated the carcinogenic risks of glyphosate, and IARC Monograph 112, published in 2017, classified glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans, stating that there is limited evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of glyphosate, and a positive association has been observed for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. These chemicals should not be used in and around our public schools which could cause health risks for our students, staff, teachers, and community members.

Yet, in Hawai'i, pesticide misuse continually endangers the well-being of our keiki. According to an investigation conducted by the *Cascadia Times*, pesticide application at large agrochemical companies on Kaua'i is ten times the national average and includes the neurotoxins chlorpyrifos, atrazine, and paraquat, which have been linked to developmental disabilities in young children.

Pesticides also waft over school communities and sicken our students, after being sprayed on windy days. In 2007, for example, nearly a dozen students at Kahuku High and Intermediate fell ill when a nearby farmer ignored windy weather while applying restricted use pesticides. In 2008, in Waimea on Kaua'i, dozens of students



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got sick after farmers applied pesticides on a nearby seed corn plot. Therefore these chemicals should definitely not be used on nor around our public school campuses, This resolution is one step that is imperative toward first knowing what is being used, or being planned on being used, and taking action to eliminate this unnecessary threat to our children's safety.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **support** HCR 119/HR 109 as we feel our community, our teachers, and our students deserve to have this information as it could affect their health.



## Board of Directors 2018 - 2020

## TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Comments on HCR119/HR109

### President

Joshua Uyehara

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
Monday, 03-18-19 2:00PM in conference room 309

### Vice-President

Warren Mayberry

Dear Chair Woodson and Committee Members:

### Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Re: Requesting the Department of Education to Report its Current Usage and Plans for Future Usage of Glyphosate and Glyphosate-Containing Herbicides On and Around Department of Education Properties, Including Schools and Playgrounds

### Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide comments regarding HCR119/HR109.

### Directors-at-Large

Alan Takemoto

Adolf Helm

Leslie Campaniano

Dan Clegg

Joshua Uyehara

Warren Mayberry

In 2018 this Legislature passed SB3095 SD1 HB1 CD1 Relating to Environmental Protection, which was signed into law by Governor Ige as Act 45 (2018). The Department of Agriculture is in the process of completing the Chapter 91 rule making process for implementation. Included in the rule making process is a reporting mechanism. We believe that the Department of Agriculture should be allowed to complete its rule-making process which includes a process for reporting pesticide usage, before asking the Department of Education to similarly create the same kind of report, which would be duplicative.

### President Emeritus

Alan Takemoto

We all believe that Hawaii's people and the environment that we all live in are valuable assets that should be protected. However, any proposed protections must be wisely applied. Glyphosate is a product that has been used for many generations. It is a product that helps keep Hawaii's environment and its people safe from invasive species, the growth of weeds on our highways, buildings and homes, and from the overgrowth of vegetation that can take over any area without any type of maintenance and vigilance.

### Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

The 2015 World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) assessment that reported glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen, referenced in paragraphs 2 and 3 of HCR119/HR109, is an outlier study that is often misinterpreted. According to IARC, Glyphosate is listed under carcinogenic classification 2A, along with red meat, art glass, and very hot beverages. A year after IARC issued its evaluation, a joint United Nations and World Health Organization panel concluded that glyphosate was "unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans."<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the IARC opinion is inconsistent with 40 years of scientific research on glyphosate and the conclusions of the

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<sup>1</sup> "JOINT FAO/WHO MEETING ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES" Geneva, 9-13 May 2016 SUMMARY REPORT Issued 16 May 2016, <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/jmprsummary2016.pdf?ua=1>



## HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

U.S. EPA, the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the European Food Safety Authority, and regulators around the world.

This resolution requests the Department of Education to report its current usage and plans for the future usage of glyphosate and glyphosate-containing herbicides on and around DOE properties, including school grounds and playgrounds, and requests detailed reports on the application, frequency, and training required, as well as reports on departmental policies and phase-out timetables. We believe that this resolution is premature and that the Department of Agriculture should be allowed the opportunity to complete its rule-making process to include the information requested in this resolution. This is very important given that glyphosate is a very necessary tool that is used in controlling our important environment and more importantly our residents, from invasive species and the overgrowth of vegetation.

We strongly urge you to consider the impacts of this measure upon all communities before deciding upon your vote. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

*HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farms 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 economy.*



March 18, 2019

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson  
Chair, House Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: HCR 119/HR 109; RELATED TO GLYPHOSATE (OPPOSE)**

Dear Chair Woodson:

On behalf of the Western Plant Health Association (WPHA), I am writing to express our **opposition** to HCR 119 and HR 109, which would request the Hawaii Department of Education to provide a report on current and future glyphosate usage. WPHA represents the interests of fertilizer and pesticide manufacturers, agricultural biotechnology providers, and agricultural retailers in Hawaii, California, and Arizona.

To assure pesticides can be used safely, all pesticides go through rigorous testing and evaluation designed to evaluate the safety of a pesticide for all settings in which it could legally be used, including use around sensitive populations and settings. To assure its safety, from both a human health and environmental standpoint, over 300 studies are required to be completed and submitted prior to a product being registered. Glyphosate has undergone this assessment process and in fact is perhaps the most studied pesticide used around the world.

The resolution is primarily based on the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) finding that glyphosate is a “probable human carcinogen”. However, what is not included in the resolution is information that has been released since the IARC finding was released. Not included was the findings of a Reuters report, an independent news organization, that the researcher who led the IARC review had consciously failed to publish sections of his report that found glyphosate was not carcinogenic. The science panel who made the listing recommendation did not have these sections of the study available as part of their evaluation.

The resolution notes that California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has since chosen to list glyphosate as a Proposition 65 chemical. It is important to note that a Proposition 65 listing is a product label warning not a product use restriction or prohibition. HCR 119 and HR 109 does not disclose that upon court review, the courts found the science utilized by IARC so flawed that while OEHHA has the right under state law to list glyphosate as a Proposition 65 chemical, glyphosate manufacturers do not have to provide the warning on glyphosate products. This decision was unsuccessfully appealed by OEHHA, with appellant courts upholding the trial court’s ruling.

As stated earlier, glyphosate is one of the most studied chemistries used around the world. The resolution notes that IARC is a committee within the World Health Organization (WHO), it does not disclose that the three other committees within the WHO that also reviews chemicals for carcinogenicity and negative health effects, including a committee that specifically evaluates pesticides have all found that glyphosate is not carcinogenic.

To date, over 800 studies have been conducted on the safety of glyphosate. These studies have been conducted by independent government agencies and scientific institutions from around the world. While not a comprehensive list, a sample of these entities include:

- **Food Safety Commission of Japan**
- **EU / German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment**
- **California Department of Pesticide Regulations**
- **Korean National Institute of Agricultural Sciences**
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency**
- **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority**
- **Argentine Interdisciplinary Scientific Council**

With the overwhelming weight of science finding that glyphosate is not carcinogenic or a health risk, WPHA believes that it is an unnecessary cost to the Hawaii Department of Education (HDOE) to have to undertake this kind of assessment. Many factors must be considered when schools determine how best to manage pests or weeds surroundings schools. Improperly managed weed control will contribute to increased pest pressure like fleas, ants and rodents. To ask the HDOE to develop across the board policies could result in increased costs to school districts that can least afford additional costs, and increased pest pressure from utilizing systems that are not as effective as current practices.

WPHA supports the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems by schools to control weeds and pests. To assure sound IPM practices, schools must be able to access and utilize a full tool box of safe and legal products and systems which may include glyphosate. WPHA appreciates the author's desire to assure that schools utilize safe IPM practices. However, we believe that a better path forward would be a resolution that the legislature provide funds for training of school personnel on the use of IPM systems rather than focusing on one chemistry that has been found around the world to be a safe and effective system for weed control. WPHA asks therefore, that you vote **no** on HCR 119 and HR 109. We thank you for your consideration of our testimony and welcome any questions you may have regarding our comments or position.

Sincerely,



Renee Pinel  
President/CEO

**HR-109**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 11:04:57 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Stop Poisoning Our Keiki.

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)