
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that glyphosate is a
2 broad-spectrum herbicide, meaning that the herbicide kills many
3 varieties of green vegetation and is widely used in
4 agricultural, residential, aquatic, and other settings.
5 Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide globally and within
6 the United States due to the widespread cultivation of "Roundup
7 Ready" crops, which are crops that have been genetically
8 engineered to withstand the application of a glyphosate-based
9 herbicide, Roundup.

10 The legislature further finds that there is growing, yet
11 mixed, evidence on the potential harmful effects of glyphosate.
12 In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a
13 division of the World Health Organization and the world's
14 leading authority on cancer, unanimously concluded that
15 glyphosate is a probable carcinogen. The International Agency
16 for Research on Cancer's determination was based on a rigorous
17 assessment that concluded that there was sufficient evidence of



1 carcinogenicity in experimental animals. In California, three
2 successful lawsuits against Bayer, formerly Monsanto, were won
3 by plaintiffs through the jury's conclusion that a connection
4 existed between the plaintiffs' extended use of Roundup and
5 their development of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. To date, 42,700
6 plaintiffs have filed lawsuits against Bayer over Roundup use
7 and Bayer has lost billions in market value since the lawsuits
8 began in 2018. In 2019, Bayer committed \$5,600,000,000 of its
9 research and development budget into alternatives to its
10 glyphosate weed killer.

11 The legislature also finds that many countries and cities
12 and municipalities in the United States have moved to ban or
13 restrict glyphosate use, citing potential environmental and
14 human health risks posed by extended exposure to glyphosate. In
15 2017, California determined that significant exposure to
16 glyphosate caused cancer and listed it under proposition 65,
17 which required businesses "to provide a warning when they cause
18 an exposure to a chemical listed as known to the state to cause
19 cancer".

20 The legislature additionally finds that glyphosate may have
21 a negative agricultural and environmental impact. Local bees



1 contribute \$225,000,000 a year to Hawai'i's economy through honey
2 and queen bee production and agricultural pollination. Hawai'i
3 is also home to sixty-three endemic species of bees, seven of
4 which are listed as endangered, that provide pollination to many
5 of Hawai'i's native plant species. A 2018 study by researchers
6 from the University of Texas at Austin found bee exposure to
7 glyphosate "increases susceptibility to infection by
8 opportunistic pathogens". Another 2018 study published by the
9 Public Library of Science found glyphosate residue present in
10 some of the honey taken from Kauai beehives and honey purchased
11 in stores. Thus, glyphosate may pose a threat to the State's
12 local bees.

13 However, the legislature notes that the United States
14 Environmental Protection Agency continues to find "no risks to
15 public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its
16 current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen". Bayer
17 maintains "that glyphosate and (their) glyphosate-based
18 formulated products can be used safely and are not
19 carcinogenic". Over forty years of glyphosate use has followed
20 these assumptions.



1 Given the mixture of evidence, the legislature finds that
2 it is prudent to assess the impacts of glyphosate use in Hawai'i.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force
4 comprised of members representing state, county, and federal
5 agencies to assess the impact of glyphosate on Hawai'i's natural
6 environment, human health, and agriculture.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the glyphosate task
8 force within the department of agriculture for administrative
9 purposes. The task force shall assess the impact of glyphosate
10 on Hawai'i's natural environment, human health, and agriculture.
11 In conducting its assessment, the task force shall determine the
12 following:

- 13 (1) Whether glyphosate users correctly apply glyphosate
14 products, as determined by the label, and if there is
15 a need for further user education;
- 16 (2) The number of glyphosate users using fifty gallons or
17 more of glyphosate per year;
- 18 (3) The number of glyphosate test sites in Hawai'i;
- 19 (4) The accessibility of online education for glyphosate
20 users;



- 1 (5) The current levels of glyphosate used to combat
2 invasive species;
- 3 (6) The costs and benefits of using glyphosate
4 alternatives instead of current glyphosate
5 applications; and
- 6 (7) A fiscal analysis of potential liabilities to the
7 State from the State's use of glyphosate.
- 8 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 9 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the
10 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as co-
11 chairperson of the task force;
- 12 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee,
13 who shall serve as co-chairperson of the task force;
- 14 (3) The superintendent of education, or the
15 superintendent's designee;
- 16 (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
17 resources, or the chairperson's designee; and
- 18 (5) The dean of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa college
19 of tropical agriculture and human resources, or the
20 dean's designee.
- 21 (c) The task force shall also invite:



1 (1) A representative from the United States National Park
2 Service;

3 (2) A representative from each of the county councils;

4 (3) A representative of the house of representatives, to
5 be selected by the chair of the house committee on
6 agriculture; and

7 (4) A representative of the senate, to be selected by the
8 chair of the senate committee on agriculture and
9 environment.

10 (d) If a task force member vacates their membership on the
11 task force, that member shall notify all current members of the
12 task force of their vacancy. If a vacating task force member
13 does not designate a replacement within fourteen calendar days
14 of providing notice, the chairpersons of the task force shall
15 designate an appropriate representative to fill the task force
16 vacancy.

17 (e) The task force shall convene its initial meeting no
18 later than July 31, 2021, and shall convene no less than four
19 times. The task force meeting schedule shall be determined by
20 its members.



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1 (f) The task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes.

3 (g) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
4 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the regular session of 2022.

7 (h) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2022.

8 (i) For the purposes of this section, "glyphosate"
9 includes all herbicides that contain glyphosate as one of the
10 active ingredients and tank mixes of herbicides containing
11 glyphosate as one of the active ingredients.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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Report Title:

DOA; Task Force; Glyphosate

Description:

Establishes a glyphosate task force to assess the impact of glyphosate on Hawaii's natural environment, human health, and agriculture.

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