

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1638-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2022

MAR 31

RE: H.C.R. No. 24

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 24 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON PESTICIDE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND STRENGTHEN STATEWIDE ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE VIOLATIONS, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Agriculture to submit a report on pesticide inspections conducted within the past five years and strengthen statewide enforcement of restricted use pesticide violations; and submit the report, including any findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Hawai'i SEED, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, and ten individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that the failure to adhere to pesticide use instructions poses significant risks to public health and the environment. Despite these risks, pesticides have been misused and continue to be misused within the State, as evidenced by settlements reached with and fines levied by the United States

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Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the repeated failure of agribusiness operations on O'ahu and Kaua'i to properly implement worker protection standards. Your Committee further finds that a 2016 study prepared by an independent Joint Fact Finding Study Group recommended additional pesticide inspections, reporting, and legal compliance reviews. Act 45, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2018, was subsequently passed, which established additional state requirements, restrictions, and prohibitions related to restricted use pesticides.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 24 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture,

  
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MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



