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Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 175
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXAMINE ORGANIC
PESTICIDES FOR AUTHORIZED USE IN THE STATE**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 175 requesting the Department of Agriculture to examine organic pesticides for authorized use in the state. The Department offers the following comments.

The Department currently has approximately 9,000 actively licensed pesticide products in our database. Organically approved products are not currently a searchable or filterable function. A huge number of staff hours would be dedicated to determining an ever-changing list. The Department will take into consideration this search function as we are currently in the building stages of a new licensing and registration database.

Extensive work in organic agricultural production is already provided by a multitude of organizations. Non-profits such as the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) provide full lists of products, including pesticides, which are approved for use in organic production. Additional resources related to organic pesticides include the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service and Xerces Society.



The Department should not show bias towards one type of production over another. Whether an agricultural producer wants to move towards organic production or conventional production, is a determination made by that individual or entity.

As noted in the resolution, the Department is not responsible for finding pesticides manufacturers and any of their products. It is their duty to submit an application to the Department for proper processing and licensing. If the Department were to reach out to individual companies to request that they apply for licensing, that would introduce bias for all other pesticide manufacturers.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the federal regulating authority of all pesticides, does not promote or provide any list of organic pesticides products. Due to the Department's stance as a regulatory authority under the co-operative agreement with U.S. EPA we should follow their lead.

The Department stands by all agricultural producers in the State and embraces all types of production which Grows Hawaii's Future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:18:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:19:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahaole Nuuanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:19:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fa'apona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:26:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Braydon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The pesticides are poisonous to our Aina and killing off of the the weeds and the chemicals kills the plants around it and it would never grow because the chemicals i poisonous.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:27:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Teixeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:27:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiyannah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support it

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:28:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paxtyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support it because we need the plants to survive.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:28:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cy Ridiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:28:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayven Okuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because, it's just better for our mahi'ai to be creating and giving us organic and safe to eat 'ai. I wouldn't want to be eating poisonous pesticides, it'd be way better for our planet and our health.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:29:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla-hope	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this testimony because pesticides should be put to use in States.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:30:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

They should examine all the products to make sure its not harmful

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:13:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this because i want to get rid of all the diseases

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:49:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vailini-Seini Keola-Kuapahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support for the safety of our people and keiki.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:51:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill and think they should study the pesticides to see if it's harmful towards our plants. These pesticides could be harmful to the food we end up eating.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:53:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support with the bill. I want to be more aware on the food I consume.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:54:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill because i want to be more aware of the food that i buy and consume

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:54:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amariah Washington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:55:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa-lia Chong-gum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because i want to know what's in the pesticide being used and don't want any health risks.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:55:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taedyn Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support because I want to know what is in the pesticide before I digeste it.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:55:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karlee Jo Taumua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because i want to know what are in these deaseases so we can fix this problem properly.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:56:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeizen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support because they should keep studying about pesticides

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:56:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jaani pahinui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:57:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylie Sonoda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill because i would want to know what GMO's and other weird chemicals farmers or scientists are putting in our organic crops. My teacher said people are getting very sick because they have been using GMO's with un-known side affects or sicknesses. We need to keep our food healthy for us and our island

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:57:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keaka Larinaga-Claver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I think is important to be studying the pesticides to see if it's safe or unsafe for our 'āina.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:57:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill cause we need fresh and Healthy Food. Our land needs more care because there has been lots of polluted areas in Hawai'i

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:58:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and i think its important to use a more organic pesticide instead of synthetic ones since the synthetic ones might not be safe and or be harmful to humans and the plant and can have a possibility to making all crops toxic in a way meanwhile the organic one can be safer for humans and the plant itself and it wont leave a dangerous chemical.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:59:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipookala Mahoe	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reason why they would doing more than supported by the Bill. There bill have the 175 HCR the requested to there own apartment to the State of the capital. There date has been on March 29 from 2023 from the responsible to the request the important things to supported or reported.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:59:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I This that it shouldnt be allowed to Bring in these pestasides because you dont know what is in them and what they use to make them and alaō it wouldnt make the product fresh and organic.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:59:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM IN SUPPORT TO REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXAMINE ORGANIC PESTICIDES FOR AUTHORIZED USE IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:00:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill to find the people who are not putting organic pesticides into our farms. So find which farmers don't have organic pesticides and try to add more organic and get rid of the bad pesticides. If find organic pesticides and study 'em and put them into the not organic pesticides.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:19:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think it should b tested and checked so it doesn't effect us in the worse way possible

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 1:58:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this, I beleive it is good we test our pestisides for chemicals.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:00:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aleena Sanabria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:00:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayden Afoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support the effort to check if the organic pesticides to see if it is ok to use on our crops or plants

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:01:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiera faatafa-pasion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it could truly help farmers see what helps kill the insects we don't need and the insects that we do.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:01:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kobe Guevara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:03:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jace kawamata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this because if organic is natural them it should be healthy towards the crops and Plants and plus wē should see if its healthy first if not then stop using it.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:05:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is allowing all the "pesticides " to be tested and checked if they are actually organic, like they claim. It's important to get this checked because if the pesticide is organic, it reduces the chemicals which reduces the harm that it causes. Also need to make sure that this chemical is not going to affect the human beings health.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:05:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this because not all pesticides are all helpful to our aina. it is slowly destroying our aina and making our people sick by spraying it everywhere, that is why we need organic pesticides.

HCR-175

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:08:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/29/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes they should examine the organic pesticides because how can it be organic but still a chemical. That doesn't sound right plus it clones the crops.