



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2974 SD1 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 2974 SD1.

This measure updates the composition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to replace representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries, and adds a representative of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United. At the time of the Advisory Committee's establishment, the sugar and pineapple industries were major stakeholders in the State's agricultural landscape. Replacing the sugar and pineapple industries with alternative representation sounds logical at this point in time.

Invasive pests (disease, insects, plants) are main issues affecting the ability of Hawai'i to practice agriculture. The judicious use of pesticides in Hawai'i is one tool that needs to remain viable for the economic viability of agriculture in the state. Pesticide use can also become a political issue. Therefore, it is critical that the members of this Advisory Committee be chosen based on knowledge, and not political agenda.

The Governor is responsible for appointing members based on nominations from the organizations mentioned in the bill. We suggest that criteria for the selection of members to this Committee be recommended to the Governor in order to help with his selection process. Members should be recognized as experts in one or more areas of pesticide chemistry, pesticides with respect to public health, and pesticide efficacy. This is consistent with the mission of the committee that includes advising the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) in pesticide problems.

We support the intent of SB 2974 SD1, but defer to the HDOA as to their priorities.



**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, 9:30a.m.

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Supports: SB2974 SD1**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of SB2974 SD1, which would update the membership of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to replace representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries. SB2974 SD1 also adds a representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

HAPA supports the inclusion of representatives from the coffee and diversified agriculture sectors and removal of sugar and pineapple representatives on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, given the changes in agricultural landscape over the past few decades.

As noted in the bill, the sugar and pineapple industries have largely departed from the islands and have been replaced by diversified agriculture across the board. At the time of the advisory committee's establishment, the sugar and pineapple industries were major stakeholders in the State's agricultural sector. In 1980, Hawaii was home to fourteen sugar and four pineapple plantations that covered more than 300,000 acres. In 2017, these two crops accounted for less than 5,000 acres. According to a 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture report, diversified agriculture accounted for over \$84 million in production while the coffee industry provided the State over \$43 million.

The advisory committee on pesticides has the important role of assisting the DOA with the development of the rules associated with 149A and with advising the department related to pesticides. This role is important and needs to be properly represented by the farming community.

Please pass SB2974 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick'.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 1, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2974, SD1  
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Via Videoconference  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau recognizes the desire to update the membership of the advisory committee on pesticides, given that both the sugar and pineapple industry acreage and crop values have dropped significantly.

We understand that this measure would substitute those industry representatives with members of two other agricultural industries; coffee and diversified agriculture, that each account for a substantial farm production value provided to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**MARCH 1, 2022  
9:30 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2974  
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Chairperson Rhoads, Vice-chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2974, relating to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The bill removes the statutory requirement for representatives of the pineapple and sugar industries and adds the statutory requirement for representatives of the coffee, diversified agriculture industries, and Hawaii Farmers Union United to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

The Department supports the measure but provides comments to recent changes. It is well documented that the pineapple and sugar industries no longer have the same economic or agricultural footprint that they did at the time when the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was established. There are far fewer growers and, more importantly, qualified individuals able to fill these seats on the committee. The Sugar and Pineapple Industry seats have had multiple vacancies throughout the past several years and have been the most difficult to fill.

Coffee is the third most economically significant crop in Hawaii after seed corn and macadamia nuts, with hundreds of growers big and small throughout the islands. Diversified agriculture would allow for a greater selection of small and large growers of fruits, vegetables, and other commodities across the state. The large number of growers representing both the coffee and diversified agriculture industries would reflect a more



up to date representation of pesticide users. The Advisory Committee on Pesticides would benefit from these new seats contributing to the committee.

The Department has concerns regarding the addition of another member if the intent is to add a member who possess greater knowledge and expertise on the health effects of pesticide use. . At best the addition of Hawaii Farmers Union United would be redundant as the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation provides expertise and knowledge of local farming practices, including organic farming, and already has a seat on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The advisory committee also already has the most qualified local experts and regulators that oversee or are concerned with the health effects and environmental impacts of pesticide use in Hawaii as represented by the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, an environmental organization, and a citizen's group. Unnecessary expansion of advisory committee and policy board membership may eventually degrade the operational effectiveness of those entities and should be avoided unless a clear need for the addition is demonstrated. The Department respectfully suggests that need is not present with the existing advisory committee membership. .

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



#### Officers

Vincent Mina  
State President  
HFUU

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President  
HFUU

Maureen Datta  
Secretary  
HFUU

Reba Lopez  
HFUU Treasurer

#### Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert  
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund  
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura  
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU strongly supports SB2974** to update the composition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and add an HFUU representative.

Updating the membership of this committee will ensure that the body better reflects the diversity of agricultural operations across the state. The removal of sugarcane and pineapple industry representatives and addition of coffee and diversified agriculture representative will make strides towards that end. HFUU is also in strong support of having our own representative on the committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

**SB-2974-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:05:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/1/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

**#fixourfoodsystem**