



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 499 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concept of SB 499. We agree with the statement that compliance with pesticide law is crucial to protecting public health and ensuring public confidence in the State's oversight of pesticide use.

This bill increases the penalties, but also maintains the flexibility of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to determine the appropriate penalty on a case-by-case basis. It also provides for a hearing if and when a violation is cited.

Pesticide use is an integral part of commercial agriculture for many producers in Hawai'i when growing edible and non-edible crops. The continued use of pesticides will be best maintained with proper oversight and penalty where applicable.

One issue that this legislation does not address are the resources needed to maintain that oversight. HDOA is the best source to address that issue.

In summary, we support SB 499 and defer to HDOA as to any limitations that may be inherent in the application of this bill.

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 AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
FEBRUARY 8, 2021
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 499
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 499, relating to Pesticides. The bill increases fines for pesticide use violations. The Department offers comments in support of this Bill.

The Department supports increased fines for pesticide use violations. The Department is provided discretion in all violations and fines but usually starts violators off with small fines. The Department only increases fines as violators made repeat violations or if there are other major environmental or human health or safety violations. Granting the Department with the ability to fine repeat violators does not stop the Department from beginning with minimal fines for first and second-time violators.

Currently, if the Department feels that our maximum possible fine has not deterred a violator from violating again, either due to the egregiousness of the violation or due to lack of compliance history by the applicator, we refer the case to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If the EPA takes enforcement action, enforcement and closure of the case is usually substantially longer than if matter is resolved locally. The fines from EPA can also be substantial; up to and including hundreds of thousands of dollars, and any collected fines go to EPA rather than the



State. After the passage of Act 45 SLH 2018, all fines collected by HDOA for violations of 149A, HRS are placed into the pesticide use revolving fund, where they may be used for training, educational workshops, environmental surveys, and other pesticide branch related activities. The Department, as well as local growers and companies would benefit from fines going to Department, rather than going to EPA. The Department would only use these highest end fines for businesses and individuals who repeatedly violate pesticide law without any attempt to better their practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB 499, RELATING TO PESTICIDES

FEBRUARY 8, 2021 · SENATE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MIKE GABBARD

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SB 499, relating to pesticides, which increases administrative and criminal penalties for those who violate the Hawaii pesticides law.

In the debate over regulating local agriculture, there is one thing that everyone should agree to condemn: causing harm to other people. Unfortunately, Hawaii's pesticide code allows chemical abuse to go unchecked. Today, the State Department of Agriculture must warn pesticide abusers before investigating potential legal violations. A farm that fails to take caution when using harmful chemicals, then, may suffer no consequences for its actions, since the warning gives owners time to hide evidence of their crimes. Even when caught, chemical criminals face minimal penalties. State law currently grades pesticide abuse as a merely a misdemeanor offense, meaning farm operators who apply dangerous doses of chemicals face a maximum one-year prison sentence.

In the islands, pesticide abuse poses major health risks. According to an investigation conducted by the *Cascadia Times*, pesticide application by four large agrichemical companies on Kaua'i—Syngenta, BASF Plant Science, DuPont Pioneer, and Dow AgroSciences—is ten times the national average. In their report, *Cascadia* found that a number of restricted use pesticides were overused, including chlorpyrifos, atrazine, and paraquat. A study published in the medical journal *The Lancet Neurology*, in March of 2014, found that the neurotoxin chlorpyrifos led to developmental disabilities in children. Similarly, atrazine and paraquat are banned in the European Union. Atrazine is known to contaminate groundwater supplies, while paraquat has been linked to the onset of Parkinson's disease. Yet, both herbicides remain widely popular

in the United States, where the Environmental Protection Agency prematurely declared with “reasonable certainty” that neither carry a significant risk of harm.

Pesticide abuse is not limited to the outer islands. On O'ahu, Imua Alliance has provided services to cancer-stricken sprayers of restricted use pesticides, some of whom have are also victims of labor trafficking. Not only were our clients provided with little to no information about the health risks of pesticides placed in their hands, they were also not given equipment to protect themselves from harm. To protect against pesticide abuse that impacts sensitive educational areas and makes children ill—as happened in 2007 at Kahuku High and Intermediate, in which a dozen students fell ill when a nearby sod farmer ignored windy weather while applying pesticides, and in 2008 in Waimea on Kaua'i, where dozens of students got sick after farmers applied pesticide on a nearby seed corn plot—it is incumbent upon lawmakers to pass legislation increasing penalties for people who recklessly assault our communities with chemical poison.

In addition to this measure, we urge local lawmakers to pass legislation eliminating warning notice requirements from the state's pesticide code, allowing investigators to probe allegations of noncompliance without tipping off their targets. Policymakers should simultaneously ensure that the Department of Agriculture has the clear capability to refer pesticide violations to law enforcement. It's time we started prosecuting those who sacrifice people's health to personal profit.

Elected officials recently passed SB 3095 (act 45), banning chlorpyrifos and establishing increased disclosure requirements for pesticide application. It is imperative that political leaders stand up for safety again this year, given recent court rulings curtailing county jurisdiction over pesticide use and land management. If you wait, our children will breathe in the fallout for generations to come.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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February 8, 2021

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 499 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES.

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association which is composed of approximately 85 small, independently owned pest control operators from throughout the state.

We oppose this bill.

As the Committee knows, the purpose of this bill is to increase the maximum fines. We have not heard any evidence or examples of where the current maximum fines were insufficient as a deterrent particularly as it relates to structural pest control operators. Every dollar out in a fine is money that cannot be reinvested into the business to make it run better, smoother or even legally. Taking \$10,000.00 out of your pocket or even under the worst of cases, \$35,000.00, is a heavy burden for a small independent operator to handle.

This is not to say that they should not suffer repercussions for violations however, there must be a balance between those actions and the financial repercussions. It must also be remembered that in wide variety of cases, a violation or administrative penalty assessed under 149A is also a violation under FIFRA and if severe enough EPA can also enter the picture and assess their fines and penalties. In the case of structural pest control operators, they are also licensed through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and RICO has the ability to assess monetary penalties and fines on top of that.

If there are examples where operators wrote a check for \$5,000.00 and turned around and committed the same offense, we would certainly like to know about it because maybe that would convince us that the fines do need to be raised. However, until that time we are opposed to this bill.

Thank you.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:16:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Koerner	Testifying for Greener Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a resident of Hawaii for 30 years, I have become disabled by the drift of dangerous pesticides such as organophosphates. Toxic drift has threatened the health of myself and all the people living in Hawaii and visiting here, and contaminated the environment. Despite these threats to Hawai'i's people and land, pesticide misuse has continued.

The maximum fine for corporate pesticide violations is currently set at \$25,000. For multi-billion dollar corporate polluters, this amount is simply a "cost of doing business" rather than a deterrent. Bayer has just offered \$2 Billion to settle all the lawsuits against Monsanto for cancer-causing Roundup. Rather than require our residents to get sick and our land poisoned, let's be proactive and require the chemical companies to follow strict guidelines with harsh penalties for pesticide violations.

For Example:

- In 2016 and 2017, Syngenta failed to adhere to pesticide use instructions on Kaua'i exposing farm workers to the now-banned neurotoxin, *chlorpyrifos*. This led to the hospitalization of ten farmworkers. If you haven't watched the documentary, Poisoning Paradise, you should definitely do so to see how the corporations bribe our officials and get to continue poisoning our 'aina.
- In 2019, Monsanto/Bayer pleaded guilty to using an illegal banned pesticide, *Penncap-M*, on Maui and Moloka'i. This is linked to impaired neurological development, chronic fatigue syndrome, and Parkinson's disease.

Please pass this bill to keep poison away from our most vulnerable keiki.

Mahalo,
Diane Koerner, Kapaa, HI 96746

Greener Hawaii



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 499

Monday, February 8th 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB 499 increasing the maximum fines for pesticide use violations.

Pesticide violations are a threat to our keiki, farmworkers and communities living near heavily sprayed fields. Pesticide use violations and illegal drift threaten to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and take a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite these risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur. Some recent large profile cases include:

- In 2016¹ and 2017², Syngenta failed to adhere to pesticide use instructions on Kaua'i exposing 77 farmworkers to the now banned neurotoxin, *chlorpyrifos*. This led to the hospitalization of ten farmworkers.
- In 2019³, Monsanto/Bayer pleaded guilty to using an illegal banned pesticide, *PennCap-M*, on Maui and Moloka'i. This is linked to impaired neurological development, chronic fatigue syndrome, and Parkinson's disease.

Too often pesticide violations are considered an acceptable "cost of doing business" by large multi-billion dollar industrial operations. Increasing fines will help create a better deterrent for future violations. Maximum federal fine limits are magnitudes higher than state DOA amounts and both are often whittled down [2]. SB 719 adjusts the maximum corporate fine threshold from \$25,000 to \$35,000, which is still very small in comparison to federal thresholds.

This bill is an important step towards better protecting our farmworkers, frontline communities and the environment from pesticide misuse, please support SB 719.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a horizontal line.

Anne Frederick

¹<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/01/23/hawaii-news/kauai-farmworkers-hospitalized-after-being-exposed-to-pesticide/>

² <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/02/epa-settles-syngenta-pesticide-claim-for-pennies-on-the-dollar/>

³<https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/monsanto-guilty-of-spraying-banned-pesticide-on-maui-fields/>

Executive Director



PAN

PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK • NORTH AMERICA

Reclaiming the future of food and farming

Re: Support for SB 499

Pesticide Action Network North America is a national & international organization with a mission to end reliance on hazardous pesticides and achieve health, resilience and justice in food and farming. **We wish to express support of SB 499**, which would increase penalties for violations of Hawaii pesticides law, and is a good first step towards holding large agribusiness corporations accountable for their impacts on human and non-human life.

As we know, the largest pesticide and biotechnology corporations (each worth several billion dollars) are operating on a massive scale in Hawai'i, which has hosted more cumulative field trials than any other state.¹ **The current penalty levels are pocket-change for these multinational corporations, and do not act as a real deterrent for repeat violations.** In fact, given the scale of these agribusinesses, it would be difficult to institute a penalty that would truly act as an effective deterrent; current law states that “the board shall consider the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of the business of the person charged, the effect on the person's ability to continue business, and the gravity of the violation.” When the entity conducting the violation is a multi-billion dollar multinational corporation, we can see the absurdity of a \$5,000 or even a \$25,000 fine. We believe that **the fines should therefore be consistently increased, as a matter of principle and to signify that human health is valued.**

For example, in the Jan 2016 Syngenta pesticide poisoning on Kauai, the Environmental Protection Agency was seeking civil penalties of \$4.8 million² (an amount which was eventually settled at \$550,000)³. While high-profile violations such as this one may be turned over to federal investigators, local enforcement staff is left to deal with the much more numerous, smaller, and “routine” violations that often go under-investigated and/or unenforced, due to the limited capacity of enforcement staff. **Increasing fines therefore has the added benefit of increasing the resources of enforcement staff.**

Therefore, **we support SB 499 as a small but important step** towards protecting our communities from toxic pesticide exposure by holding violators more accountable.

¹ http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/key-findings_2nd_ed_61347.pdf

² <https://www.khon2.com/local-news/syngenta-receives-epa-complaint-over-kauai-farm-pesticide-exposure/>

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/syngenta-epa/syngenta-seeds-settles-hawaii-pesticide-exposure-action-by-epa-idUSL2N1Q3025>



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

Hawai`i SEED Supports: SB 499

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

We strongly support SB 499 for the protection of Hawai`i's residents, farm workers and the environment by increased oversight and more stringent enforcement of Hawai`i's pesticide laws by increasing monetary fines for violations of misuse of pesticides.

Administrative fines should increase for each offense if this occurs more than once, as well as an increase for persons found guilty of knowingly violating the Hawai`i Pesticides law, HRS 149A. Repeated violations should be dealt with strongly.

The fine threshold as it stands now is so very low. The consequence of paying a small fine for willfully applying illegal and unsafe application is sometimes considered a justification as the cost of doing business for a large user. This is extremely criminal and it should be known that it is unacceptable and not tolerated.

This bill is necessary to protect farm workers, communities, waterways, soil and the entire ecosystem from careless and casual disregard for our pesticide laws.

We have seen illegal application far too many times, and it is very dangerous. For every incident we know about, there may be many more that are not cited. By increasing the fines, and scaling up subsequent violations, we hope that those who choose to use dangerous agricultural products will refrain from violations and illegal use all together.

Mahalo,

Jeri Di Pietro, President

Hawai`i SEED



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February 8, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 499
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Via Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

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

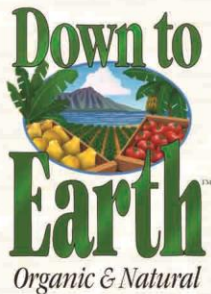
The Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully opposes SB 499, which increases administrative and criminal penalties for violations of Hawaii pesticides law.

We agree that pesticides must be used properly. We also agree that stringent enforcement of the strict federal and state pesticide laws and regulations, as well as timely and routine inspections and compliance investigations of potential misuse of pesticides, are crucial to protecting public health and ensuring public confidence in the State's oversight of pesticide use. **This measure is unlikely to deter pesticide law violations** because typically, these offenses stem from a lack of understanding of the complex laws, not an intentional action. We believe that a more robust pesticide education outreach effort would better serve the community and be more effective in preventing violations.

This measure arbitrarily increases the administrative and criminal penalties, **doubling some and increasing others five-fold**. To our knowledge, there are *no* farms that intentionally violate pesticide laws and that would consider the already-significant penalties and terrible public relations as a "cost of doing business." For the vast majority of farms in Hawaii, even the current penalties, not to mention the negative publicity, could quickly put them right out of business.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject and for your support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.

Love Life!



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SB 499 RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Judiciary
February 8, 2021, 1:00pm State Capitol

Aloha Sen. Mike Gabbard, AEN Chair, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, AEN Vice Chair, Sen. Karl Rhoads, JDC Chair, Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, JDC Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of SB 499.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based and vegetarian lifestyle.

We are in support of SB 499. The real and persistent danger that many pesticides pose to individual health, the development of our children, and the sustainability of our land cannot be denied, as we have witnessed through recent media reports and the conclusions of scientific studies. We often don't understand the impact of pesticides until after widespread use for many years, as they affect much more than just the plants they are intended for.

On behalf of our customers and our communities, many of whom are greatly concerned about the dangers of excessive pesticide use, we strongly support increasing the administrative and criminal penalties for those who violate the Hawaii pesticides law. We urge you to pass this measure for the well-being of our residents, our wildlife, our ecological health, and for the next generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager
Down to Earth

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SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:53:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

Please support SB499, which will increase administrative and criminal penalties for those who violate the Hawai'i pesticides law.

Too often, pesticide violations are considered an acceptable "cost of doing business" by large industrial operations because the state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior or stop repeat violators.

This bill is an important step to better protecting our farmworkers, communities and the environment from pesticide misuse.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:55:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Absolutely support harsh fines.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:36:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The fines must be much more than a "Slap on the Wrist." They must be large enough to deter the careless handling & disposal. The fines should also be large enough to properly compensate the damage to the Aina and the public. Make it hurt!

JN

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:08:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill to **increase state pesticide fines and encourage the safe disposal of pesticides.**

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:36:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 499 because I live near a papaya farm and sometimes we can smell the pesticides. These pesticides have caused my neighbor honey farmer to lose most of his bees. Another neighbor suffers from sterility and another had dogs with wierd skin tumors. We know that they wear hasmat suits when they spray, but we do not have those.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:59:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am writing in strong support of SB 499. It is important to me that we increase the administrative and criminal penalties for those who violate the Hawai'i pesticides law. Right now, the maximum fine for corporate pesticide violations is currently set at \$25,000. For multi-billion dollar corporate polluters, this amount is simply a "cost of doing business", rather than a deterrent. We need to increase the fine to create a sense of urgency to change the behavior of the polluters and stop repeat offenders. It is important to me that this bill passes, to better protect our farmworkers, communities, and the environment from pesticide misuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:23:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stathie J. Prattas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislature:

Support.

Please protect the Aina and our people by enforcing our laws to punish companies poisoning us.

This bill supports exacting a stiffer penalty for those violators.

Mahalo,

Stathie J. Prattas

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:59:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is an important step to better protecting our farmworkers, communities and the environment from pesticide misuse.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:01:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Thurston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, which represents an important step toward protecting our farm workers, communities and the environment from pesticides. At present, Hawaii's low fine threshold does not provide an effective barrier to the large industrial operations in our state, which tend to simply consider fines an acceptable cost of doing business.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:46:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please increase fines for illegal pesticide use so it is no longer just the cost of doing business, but a real deterrent to harming the land and living things.

mahalo, Cory Harden

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:48:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This should be a no brainer. Please support this important bill.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:25:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, please support and pass SB499, which will increase penalties for those who violate Hawai'i's pesticide laws.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:41:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a scientist studying water pollution in Hawaii, I documented the presence of pesticides in our stream and ditch waters. With students we also identified the spread of pesticides and heavy metals from ag fields into the general environment by using bees as bio-monitors.

Pesticide violations have been shown to occur on state lands administered by the ADC.

I strongly support an increase in fines to act as a deterrent to pesticide mis-use.

Carl J. Berg, Ph.D. ecologist

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:52:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Dandurand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fines and penalties are used to deter people, countries and corporations from doing harm. When the penalty is no longer a deterrent, it becomes useless. Let's put the teeth back into fines and penalties for those breaking the rules made to protect us. I support increasing the fines and penalties until it hurts corporations into following the rules. I support SB499. Mahalo

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:12:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Corporate pollution results in significant costs paid out by government and people. It's time corporations are held responsible and suffer real consequences for harming the aia as well as our people.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:42:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill and give teeth to our fines for Pesticide Violations.

Mahalo.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:43:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Alohamai My Name Is R Momi Ventura, I Live In Kihei And Support SB499. A Much Stricter Restriction On Pesticides Is Necessary, Especially Since It's Horribly Dangerous To Human Health Over Time. Hawai'i Nei Started Out With The Most Pristine Lands Throughout The Islands.. Keep Our Lands Safe Please Don't Pollute Our Backyards, Now And In The Future For Our Children's Children..

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:29:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB499 because I want to see increased administrative and criminal penalties for those who violate Hawai'i pesticides laws. We need stiffer penalties to protect our farm workers, communities, and environment. Thank you.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:36:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerith Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am opposed to the use of pesticides in Hawaii and support raising the minimum penalty for abuse of pesticides.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 10:05:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
minda goodman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why are they allowed to **knowing** poison us?

Where do the people (because people make up a company) who made the decisions to use illegal banned pesticides in 2016, 2017 (Syngenta) and 2019 (Monsanto/Bayer) live with their families.

Part of the fines should be that these people, that made those decisions should live and breath what they have created.

Shame on them!

Imua to us!

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:49:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For the health and safety of all, I am in support of increased fines for violations.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:50:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Godfrey Akaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill as the current law in effect encourages companies to violate the law because the fine is easier to pay than to comply. Mahalo.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:43:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in support of SB499.

SB 499 will increase administrative and criminal penalties for those who violate the Hawai'i pesticides law.

Too often, pesticide violations are considered an acceptable "cost of doing business" by large industrial operations because the state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior or stop repeat violators.

This bill is an important step to better protecting our farmworkers, communities and the environment from pesticide misuse.

Please support this bill!

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 4:04:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Please support SB 499 to increase penalties for misuse of pesticides near our schools and housing. We need to protect our families from being poisoned by irresponsible companies or uninformed farmers, and this bill increases incentives for them to follow the laws..

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Anne Miller

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 10:53:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Chang - Thank you for sponsoring this legislation which will help ensure all of us living in Hawaii will enjoy a safer ienvironment the future. This is especially important for our children and grandchildren.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 11:57:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee, I am submitting testimony in strong SUPPORT of SB 499 which increases the maximum fines for pesticide use violations because it will undoubtedly create more robust pesticide education programs and will create a meaningful deterrent for pesticide applicators.

Often we only hear about the high-profile pesticide violation cases because of the involvement of the Environmental Protection Agency, or environmental law firms such as Earthjustice, but as a resident of O'ahu's North Shore, I know firsthand that pesticide violations occur on a daily basis.

One such case is taking place in Waialua where farmers are being poisoned with Malathion drift from neighboring cucumber growers, and despite an onsite meeting with the Department of Agriculture, CTAHR, the landowner and all the farmers involved, little has been done to curtail the acknowledged misuse of this and other products.

Please pass SB 499 to help ensure that our ecosystems and communities are protected from pesticide misuse.

SB-499

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 9:25:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Michele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, we can not afford to poison our homes any more. Thank you.