

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

MARCH 30, 2023

9:35 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 016 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE

**HOUSE BILL NO. 692 H.D.1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Chairperson Rhoads, Vice-chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 692 House Draft 1. This bill seeks to protect the State's residents and environment and ensure more stringent enforcement of Hawaii pesticide law by increasing monetary fines for pesticide violations. The Department supports this bill.

Fines for violations of Hawaii Pesticide Laws have not increased for 22 years for commercial pesticide applicators and nearly 50 years for private pesticide applicators. In the last five years, the Pesticides Branch has issued and closed almost 100 Notices of Violations for companies or individuals who had repeat use violations. This does not include cases still pending final resolution or any sales violations. Roughly 20% of these repeat violators have multiple notices of violation within this same time frame. Some of these violators had as many as four previous enforcement actions for the same types of violations, with no attempt to resolve violations, even when given compliance assistance services by the Branch.



Historically, when Pesticide Branch staff has been unable to gain compliance with a company or applicator after multiple violations, these cases are referred to the U.S. EPA. These cases often end up with fines in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, which goes to the federal government, rather than back to the Department who may use the penalty monies to provide training services, environmental studies, and other uses deemed appropriate by the Pesticide Use Revolving Fund. The Department would rather keep any penalties in the State of Hawaii to be able to better protect the people and the environment of Hawaii.

The Department is provided discretion in all violations and fines but in the majority of cases the Department starts violators off with small fines. Fines increase only as violators make repeated violations, the increased ranges are stipulated within Hawaii Administrative Rules 4-66, Appendix A: Enforcement Action and Penalty Assessment Schedule. 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, who most often receive a warning notice with no fines associated for their first violation. 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. Violators who accept educational services and can better their practices without receiving multiple violations would not be subject to any higher penalty. All violators receiving a Notice of Violation have a right to a hearing and are provided a chance to inform the Department of mitigating circumstances, improvement measures they have taken, and financial hardship, all of which the Department considers before entering into a consent agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Aloha committee members,

My name is Arwen Revere and I am a high school student from Kailua and a member of the environmental organization Wild Kids, whom I am representing today. Wild Kids is in strong support of HB692. We believe that the proper enforcement of the Hawai'i pesticides law, including timely and routine inspections and compliance investigations of potential misuse of pesticides, is crucial to protecting public health and ensuring public confidence in the state's oversight of pesticide use. To protect the state's residents and environment, and ensure more rigid enforcement of the Hawai'i pesticides law, it is appropriate for the state to increase monetary fines for pesticide violations from their current levels. Please support this bill and our natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Arwen Revere



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HB692 HD1 – With Comments
Relating to Pesticides
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
Time: 9:35 AM
Place: Conference Room 016

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

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments on HB692 HD1**, which increases administrative and criminal penalties for individuals who violate the Hawaii pesticides law.

HCIA understands the intent behind this measure and supports the proper use of pesticides and the importance of following all state and federal laws and regulations. To this end, we believe that a more effective way to limit violations is through funding a pesticide education and training program that would help farmers better comply with all of the pesticide laws and regulations. As we look towards growing the next generation of future farmers, education and training new agriculture entrepreneurs will be important.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:12:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri Di Pietro	Testifying for Hawai'i SEED	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote to Support the passing of bill HB 692 HD1. The repeat offenders of pesticide violations, not unlike folks with many vehicle infractions or long criminal records, put innocent people at risk. The fines for repeat pesticide viloatations are too low to be a serious deterrent to the mishandling of clearly labeled Restrited Use Pesticides. Sloppy handling or disregard for the was meant to protect us is a danger to field workers, residents and critical habitat and finite resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please support this bill to increase fines for misuse.

Jeri Di Pietro, President

Hawai'i SEED

Koloa, HI

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:53:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Metzger	Testifying for HANAI HIVES	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

The health of our āina, water, and air determines the health of all living creatures. Our island home has been violated by the onslaught of heavy pesticides for decades. As a result, we have a massive amount of clean-up work to do. HB692 is one important step to get us moving in the right direction. And in fact, if it does not pass, our efforts to stop lawbreakers who continue to violate the law by using gross amounts of poisonous pesticide in our waterways and āina will be thwarted. The current fines are simply not adequate to deter violators.

As a beekeeper, not only do these pesticides negatively impact the health of my family & community, they cause irrecoverable harm to my bees, and as a result my business. I urge you to please pass HB692.

Mahalo,

Katie Metzger

Hānai Hives



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

March 28, 2023

To: Chair Rhoads Vice Chair Gabbard, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subject: **HB692**, Relating to pesticides

Aloha mai kākou,

Food+ Policy supports HB692, which *increases administrative and criminal penalties for individuals who violate the Hawaii pesticides law.*

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai'i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O'ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka'i [[related link](#)].

We urge you to **SUPPORT HB692**.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



HB 692, HD1, RELATING TO PESTICIDES

MARCH 30, 2023 · SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
· CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HB 692, HD1, relating to pesticides, which increases administrative and criminal penalties for violators of the Hawai'i pesticides law.

In the debate about regulating local agriculture, there is one thing that everyone should agree to condemn: causing harm to other people. Unfortunately, Hawai'i'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 lawbreakers face minimal criminal penalties and paltry fines for their reckless behavior.

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.

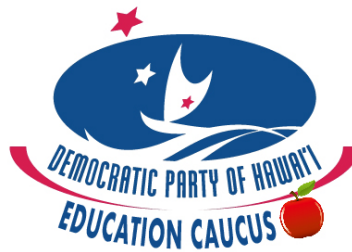
Atrazine is known to contaminate groundwater supplies, while paraquat has been linked to the onset of Parkinson's disease. Yet, both herbicides remain widely popular in the United States, where the Environmental Protection Agency prematurely declared with “reasonable certainty” that neither carry a significant risk of harm.

To protect against pesticide drift impacting sensitive educational areas and making 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 prevent pesticide abuse, including harmful pesticide drift (a particularly acute concern for Hawai'i's schools, given our frequently gusting trade winds).

Accordingly, it is essential that increase penalties for those who disregard pesticide regulations. Recent reports have found that **over 215,000 pounds of restricted use pesticides were released across central O'ahu and the North Shore in 2019**, according to the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action. The research is clear and the verdict is in: there is no excuse for failing to fully protect public health from the dangerous effects of chemical carcinogens.

In 2018, elected officials passed SB 3095, banning chlorpyrifos and establishing increased disclosure requirements for pesticide applications. It is imperative that political leaders stand up for safety again during this year's legislative session, especially given recent court rulings against agrochemical companies that have demonstrated the link between restricted use pesticides and terminal illness. 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



HOUSE BILL 692, HD1, RELATING TO PESTICIDES

MARCH 30, 2023 · SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
· CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 692, HD1, relating to pesticides, which increases administrative and criminal penalties for violators of the Hawai'i pesticides law.

In the debate about regulating local agriculture, there is one thing that everyone should agree to condemn: causing harm to other people. Unfortunately, Hawai'i'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 lawbreakers face minimal criminal penalties and paltry fines for their reckless behavior.

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.

To protect against pesticide drift impacting sensitive educational areas and making 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 prevent pesticide abuse, including harmful pesticide drift (a particularly acute concern for Hawai'i's schools, given our frequently gusting trade winds).

Accordingly, it is essential that increase penalties for those who disregard pesticide regulations. Recent reports have found that **over 215,000 pounds of restricted use pesticides were released across central O'ahu and the North Shore in 2019**, according to the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action. The research is clear and the verdict is in: there is no excuse for failing to fully protect public health from the dangerous effects of chemical carcinogens.

In 2018, elected officials passed SB 3095, banning chlorpyrifos and establishing increased disclosure requirements for pesticide applications. It is imperative that political leaders stand up for safety again during this year's legislative session, especially given recent court rulings against agrochemical companies that have demonstrated the link between restricted use pesticides and terminal illness. If you wait, our children will breathe in the fallout for generations to come.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com



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Kauai

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Judiciary 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 supports HB692.**

HB692 Pesticides increases administrative and criminal penalties for violators of Hawaii's pesticides law, this bill is essential to ensuring that our farms remain healthy and safe for years to come.

The pesticide rules and regulations in place in Hawaii are necessary for protecting worker wellbeing and the health of our environment. If a farm is in violation of these regulations, HB692 increases the administrative and criminal penalties that can be assessed. This measure creates a deterrent effect, which will ultimately lead to more compliance from farms, having a direct and positive impact on our environment and public health. As a representative of the hardworking members of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, I strongly encourage you to support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB692 HD1

Thursday, March 30th, 2023 9:35 a.m. Conference Room 016

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

HAPA supports HB692 HD1 to increase the maximum fines for pesticide use violations.

Pesticide violations are a threat to our keiki, farmworkers and communities living near heavily sprayed fields. Improper use, disposal and drift threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite these risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur and the State is unable to impose significant fines for such repeat violations.

Monsanto/Bayer pleaded guilty in 2022 to illegally using and storing agricultural chemicals in Hawai'i. Monsanto was charged with **30 environmental crimes** after allowing workers to go into corn fields on Oahu in 2020 after a product named Forfeit 280 was sprayed. Federal law prohibits people from entering areas where the chemical is sprayed within six days of application.¹ All of these egregious violations happen without the State having the ability to appropriately issue more significant fines.

These repeat violations by multi-billion dollar chemical corporations aren't new. In 2016² and 2017³, 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 2019⁴, 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. We see this pattern of repeat violations in the violation records and it's clear that the same violators are repeatedly misusing pesticides outside of the law and label requirements.

¹ <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/01/07/monsanto-pleads-guilty-pesticide-related-crimes-hawaii/>

² <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/01/23/hawaii-news/kauai-farmworkers-hospitalized-after-being-exposed-to-pesticide/>

³ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/02/epa-settles-syngenta-pesticide-claim-for-pennies-on-the-dollar/>

⁴ <https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/monsanto-guilty-of-spraying-banned-pesticide-on-maui-fields/>

We believe increasing fines will help create a better deterrent for future violations. The agrochemical industry has repeatedly violated worker safety and endangered residents living adjacent to their operations, yet the maximum fine amounts for such repeat violations are unacceptably low.

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

Please support HB692 HD1.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 5:12:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good start. However we must work toward banning these toxic chemicals for everyone's health. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, March 30, 2023
9:35 AM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB692 HD1 RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, a labor activist, and member of the Hawai'i State Youth Commission. I am testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB692 HD1**, Relating to Pesticides.

For a long time now, multinational, uber wealthy corporations like Monsanto/Bayer have been misusing pesticides in O'ahu, Maui, and Moloka'i. They have been threatening the health of farm workers, including the last of the union agricultural workers in Hawai'i, their families, and neighboring communities. This includes kūpuna (or their descendants) who worked in the plantations and through organizing with the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU), fought for better working conditions and safety in the fields. You as decision makers must honor their struggle and fight harder to make even further gains. People's lives are at stake here! Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O'ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka'i.

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. The maximum fine for corporate pesticide violations is currently set at \$25,000. This is not enough to stop multi-billion dollar polluters from misusing pesticides, they can and have used their tremendous resources to just pay the fines and carry on with business as usual. You must increase the penalties as high as possible so that it will no longer be profitable to hurt our communities, our soil, our air, and our water. Please **PASS House Bill 692 HD1** out of your committee and change the **defective date of 06/30/3000 to a clean date of 06/30/2023**. Please hold corporate polluters accountable for harming our people and our land.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 11:53:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:51:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:51:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MAHINA VENTURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The long term affects of years of Improper and illegal use of pesticides have long term affects our water, our air, non-target plants and so many species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai'i. This effects us all long-term especially the children and next generation

NO more pesticides in HAWAII! Every island should be protected from this poison!

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:03:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with input by HAPA

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:07:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'ian land and sea have been heavily exposed to pesticide misuse for decades. Toxic chemicals harmful to human, bird, animal, and fish are allowed by our governments on the theory of safeguards that must be followed to avoid harm. Without adequate consequences, large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades without regard to regulations that have low enforcement/fines for violators. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai'i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O'ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka'i. Cases such as these should have the ability to be appropriately and seriously fined by our State Department of Agriculture.

The people of Hawai'i need better protection for our health, and that of our precious land and water. Please support Related coverage:

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/01/07/monsanto-pleads-guilty-pesticide-related-crimes-hawaii/>

Urgent you pass HB 692. Mahalo.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:49:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please save our aina.

We are being poisoned to death.

Our air, our soil, our water, and our food are all contaminated by pesticides and herbicides, all unnecessary.

Mahalo.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:01:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, Committee Members,

I am in strong support of increasing fines to large corporations in violations of laws. They know better, they can afford it, and there's no excuse. If we don't hit them where it hurts they will continue their bad behavior. Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai'i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O'ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka'i. Cases such as these should have the ability to be appropriately and seriously fined by our State Department of Agriculture.

Please support HB692 HD1.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:33:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sulara James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for increased fines for pesticide use. For the health of the aina, our oceans, humans and all of life on our beautiful islands, please make these perpetrators accountable for the toxic environment they are creating and the damage they are doing to us all without any meaningful consequences. Mahalo for choosing better health for us all and the right to live free of poisons and toxins. Mother Earth is precious, we are precious, our children are precious. ALL OF LIFE is PRECIOUS! MAHALO NUI LOA!

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:19:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please limit pesticides in our community and our surrounding oceans.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:28:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's protect our workers from actions in which they have no control and are harmful to their health.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 5:43:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support. There are to many pesticide violations. I did send each of a list of Repeat Offenders of Pesticide Violations. Please support HB692 HD1.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 5:48:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the House,

HB 692 is a no brainer! Hawaii is only to gain by punishing the polluters.

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

please please support this bill. Support a healthy Hawaii.

Regards,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:39:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

For decades, large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state’s current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, leads to short and long-term contamination of the state’s soil, air, and water, and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has and continues to occur within Hawai‘i.

Mahalo!

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:18:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:37:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani. I've been a resident of Oahu for 30 years and have long been concerned with the agrochemical industry's repeated violations and resistance to county regulations.

I support HB692 HD1 as it will help ensure a **more stringent enforcement** of Hawaii's pesticides laws, possibly help the Pesticide Branch gain prompter compliance from those who are in violation and keep the money from the fines in the state.

Pesticide violations are a threat to everyone including the employees who administer them. Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani BSN/RN

Cannabis Nurse Educator

Kailua (808) 321-4503

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:55:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Maitino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this concerns:

Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state’s current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state’s soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai‘i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O‘ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka‘i. Cases such as these should have the ability to be appropriately and seriously fined by our State Department of Agriculture.

Do the right thing. This has been a long-standing problem that will not go away. The 'cost of doing business' is not a good enough incentive. The fines must be increased.

Thank you for your time.

Maria Maitino

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:02:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Esteemed Representatives,

Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state’s current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state’s soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai‘i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O‘ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka‘i. Cases such as these should have the ability to be appropriately and seriously fined by our State Department of Agriculture.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:14:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I urge you to pass HB692.

Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Let's change this "business cost" to a DETERRANT!!

Mahalo nui!

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uaniu

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:35:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state's current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state's soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai'i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O'ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka'i. Cases such as these should have the ability to be appropriately and seriously fined by our State Department of Agriculture.

please support this Bill

sincerely,

Kiana Rowley

'Oma'opio Maui

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:05:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enforcement of the Hawai'i pesticides law, including timely and routine inspections and compliance investigations of potential misuse of pesticides, is crucial to protecting public health and ensuring public confidence in the state's oversight of pesticide use.

To protect the state's residents and environment, and ensure more stringent enforcement of the Hawai'i pesticides law, it is appropriate for the state to increase monetary fines for pesticide violations from their current levels. Please support this bill.

HB-692-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:59:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Large corporate polluters have exposed farm workers and neighboring communities to pesticide misuse for decades. As a result, exposure has threatened the health of vulnerable populations and contaminated the environment.

The state’s current low fine threshold does not create a sense of urgency to change behavior and stop repeat violators. 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.

Improper and illegal use of pesticides threatens to harm adjacent, non-target plants and species, to lead to short and long-term contamination of the state’s soil, air and water and takes a toll on human health and quality of life. Despite the risks, pesticide misuse has, and continues to occur within Hawai‘i.

Just recently Monsanto/Bayer has pleaded guilty to multiple pesticide violations on O‘ahu. This is on the heels of additional violations on Maui and Moloka‘i. Cases such as these should have the ability to be appropriately and seriously fined by our State Department of Agriculture.

Please support HB692 HD1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717