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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 138  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXAMINE ORGANIC  
PESTICIDES FOR AUTHORIZED USE IN THE STATE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 138 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 follow 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.