



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2337, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PESTICIDES.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2024 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Kelcie K. Nagata or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the members of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides from members of the sugar and pineapple industries to diversified agriculture and coffee industries.

We note that some technical revisions made in the H.D. 1 could be construed to substantively change the meaning of the statute. Specifically, the addition of the "and" and the deletion of the comma on page 1, line 12—"and a citizen group[,] and a landscape professional"—could lead to confusion. Instead of having one member who represents a "citizen group" and one member who represents a "landscape professional," the current bill wording could be construed to require that one member be both a representative of a citizen group and a landscape professional.

Accordingly, for clarity, we recommend deleting the added "and" and restoring the deleted comma, on page 1, line 12.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2337 HD1 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2337 HD1 which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

There has been a significant reduction of the agricultural footprint of the sugar and pineapple industries since the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was established. The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has a representative on the advisory committee. Amending the membership of the advisory committee by replacing the sugar and pineapple industries with a representative from the coffee industry, which is among the top 3 most economically significant crops in the State, as well as adding a representative of diversified agriculture allows broader representation of commodities which would include the pineapple and sugar industries.

We support HB 2337 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 11, 2024
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. HB2337, HD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2337, HD1 relating to Pesticides. The bill replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Due to the exit of the sugar industry and the reduction of pineapple cultivation in the State the Department has had difficulty finding and retaining qualified individuals for both seats on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

As the coffee industry has recently seen impacts from pest pressures such as Coffee Leaf Rust and Coffee Berry Borer the Department supports the inclusion of coffee on to the committee. Diversified agriculture and minor crops make up a large portion of agricultural production in the State and should also have a seat on the committee. Diversified agriculture may also provide a different viewpoint than traditional agricultural producers and includes the sugar and pineapple industries, should those industries seek representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 11, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2337, HD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 supports HB 2337, HD1, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

The purpose of the advisory committee is to advise and assist the Department of Agriculture in developing or revising pesticide laws and rules and to advise on pesticide problems. Membership on the committee is specific and broad-based. It includes industry and agency-nominated, well-vetted, Governor-appointed representatives with pesticide expertise from the Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Agriculture, industries that make or use pesticides, and stakeholder representatives from the community and an environmental organization.

The size of the committee must be limited to ensure that there is an adequate representation of stakeholders to effectively accomplish the committee's work but not too many members to preclude meaningful engagement by each member.

Due to the loss of the sugar industry in Hawai'i, the dramatic decrease in pineapple production, and the rise in acreage and economic significance of the diversified agriculture and coffee industries, it is appropriate that the committee membership be statutorily updated accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for your continued support of Hawai'i farmers and ranchers.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

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Ka'u, Hawaii

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Fawn Helekahi-Burns
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Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union 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 HB2337.**

The sugar and pineapple industries that once dominated the agricultural landscape in Hawaii, no longer represent the majority of agriculture in the islands. The representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries will bring a fresh perspective and invaluable expertise to the committee.

Hawaii Farmers Union seeks an amendment to also add a representative of our organization to this important body.

These members will have firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by farmers across various sectors, including the negative impacts of excessive pesticide use and the urgency to find alternative methods that are both effective and environmentally friendly.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2337 HD1

Monday, March 11th, 2024 1:00p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA supports HB2337 HD1, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.

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.

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 and how agriculture will be conducted in the islands. This role is important and needs to be properly represented by the current farming community.

Please support HB2337 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is placed above the typed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



HB2337 HD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES
Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

March 11, 2024

1:00 pm

Conference Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB 2337 HD1**, which would propose amendments to Section 149A-51 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, focusing on the composition and functions of the advisory committee on pesticides. We also **respectfully request an amendment** to further strengthen this proposal. OHA recognizes the importance of effective pesticide management for the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our unique ecosystems.

The shift from sugar and pineapple industries to coffee and diversified agriculture is a crucial step towards modernizing our approach to agriculture in Hawai‘i. As our agricultural landscape evolves, our advisory committees must reflect these changes to provide effective guidance and oversight. Coffee and diversified agriculture represent sectors that are rapidly growing and hold significant economic potential for our state. By including representatives from these industries on the advisory committee, we can ensure that their unique challenges and perspectives are properly addressed.

A diverse advisory committee, as envisioned in HB2337 HD1, ensures a broader spectrum of perspectives, expertise, and experiences, contributing to the development of more effective and equitable pesticide laws and rules. We appreciate the way this legislation provides modernization and expanded inclusivity. OHA believes this will benefit the way pesticides are used and/or regulated on our ‘āina.

OHA respectfully asks that the committee consider adding a representative who can ensure Native Hawaiian farming and/or ecological practices are included in these critical discussions. Widespread Native Hawaiian participation in this pesticide advisory committee would be integral to achieving improvements in Native Hawaiian health and well-being by gaining insight into Native Hawaiian tradition knowledge and culture, while simultaneously elevating Native Hawaiian influence through potential agricultural development opportunities.



HB2337 HD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Thus, OHA would like to offer an amendment to page 1 line 13 that can further strengthen the legislation by explicitly including a representative with expertise or consideration for Native Hawaiian perspectives:

§149A-51 Advisory committee. (a) There shall be an advisory committee on pesticides composed of but not limited to the chairperson, or the chairperson's designated representative, who shall head the committee and one representative each from the department of health, department of land and natural resources, University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, ~~sugar industry, pineapple industry,~~ coffee industry, diversified agriculture industry, Hawaii Farm Bureau [Federation], pesticide industry, structural pest control industry, an environmental organization, a citizen group, ~~and~~ a landscape professional, and an individual or organization who can provide knowledge of Native Hawaiian farming or ecological practices.

By embracing a more inclusive advisory committee structure, we take a crucial step toward fostering sustainable agriculture practices, protecting our environment, and safeguarding the health of our communities.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **ADVANCE** and **AMEND** HB2337 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

HB-2337-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 4:45:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to replacing representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.