

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
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 27, 2024
9:45 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. HB2337, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2337, HD1, SD1 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.





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 Judiciary
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 9:45 a.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 SD1 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2337 HD1 SD1 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 SD1 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.



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March 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2337, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, 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, SD1, 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.



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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Judiciary 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 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