

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 12, 2024
1:31 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. SB 3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3026 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 Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 12, 2024 at 1:31 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3026 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3026 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 SB 3026 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.



SB3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

February 12, 2024

1:31 pm

Conference Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB3026, 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, it is imperative that our advisory committees 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 SB2546, 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.



HB1928
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION
House Committee on Water & Land

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** bill SB3026. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 11, 2024

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **Support of SB3026**

Honorable Members of the Committee,

As Hawaii Food+ Policy, we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 3026, which seeks to amend Section 149A-51 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes concerning the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

SB3026 represents a significant step forward in promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices in Hawaii. By updating the composition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to include representatives from the coffee and diversified agriculture industries, the bill aligns with our organization's core values of environmental preservation and responsible stewardship of Hawaii's natural resources.

We believe that the inclusion of representatives from the coffee and diversified agriculture industries will bring much-needed expertise and perspective to the advisory committee, ensuring that decisions regarding pesticide regulations and management strategies are informed by a diverse range of stakeholders. This diverse representation will lead to more comprehensive discussions and ultimately result in more effective policies that balance the needs of agriculture with the preservation of our environment.

Furthermore, we commend the bill for its emphasis on collaboration and cooperation among various stakeholders, including government agencies, academia, industry, and environmental organizations. By fostering dialogue and engagement among these groups, the advisory committee can develop holistic and balanced solutions to pesticide-related issues that take into account the diverse interests and concerns of all parties involved.

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 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads 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.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy fully supports SB3026 and urges the committee to approve this important piece of legislation. We believe that by updating the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Hawaii can continue to lead the way in promoting sustainable agriculture practices and protecting our precious natural resources for future generations.

Mahalo for considering our testimony,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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