

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 JUDICIARY

FEBRUARY 27, 2024
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. SB 3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chairperson Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, 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 Judiciary
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.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 Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

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.



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February 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY ON SB 3026
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
10:00 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 SB 3026, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.

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 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.



Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB3026

Friday, February 27th, 2024 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 016

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of SB3026, 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 SB3026.

Mahalo for your consideration,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 20, 2024

To: Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbards, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha kākou,

As Hawaii Food+ Policy, an organization dedicated to advocating for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation in Hawaii, we are writing to express our strong support for SB3026, which proposes amendments to Section 149A-51 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes concerning the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

SB3026 represents a crucial step towards promoting sustainable agricultural practices and safeguarding Hawaii's unique natural environment. By updating the composition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to include representatives from the coffee and diversified agriculture industries, the bill reflects a forward-thinking approach to pesticide regulation and management.

Our organization firmly believes that this change will have numerous positive implications for Hawaii's agricultural sector and environmental well-being:

1. Including representatives from the coffee and diversified agriculture industries on the advisory committee underscores Hawaii's commitment to environmental preservation. These industries are known for their environmentally friendly practices and can offer valuable insights into minimizing the ecological impact of pesticide use.
2. The addition of representatives from diverse agricultural sectors ensures that the advisory committee benefits from a wide range of perspectives and expertise. This diversity will enrich discussions and decision-making processes, leading to more informed and effective policies that address the needs of all stakeholders.

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

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3. Hawaii's coffee and diversified agriculture industries are integral to the state's economy and cultural heritage. By giving these sectors a voice on the advisory committee, SB3026 acknowledges their importance and provides them with a platform to advocate for policies that support their interests and livelihoods.

4. The removal of representatives from outdated industries like sugar and pineapple demonstrates a recognition of the evolving agricultural landscape in Hawaii. SB3026 ensures that the advisory committee remains relevant and responsive to current industry trends and priorities, thereby fostering innovation and progress in agricultural practices.

5. The advisory committee serves as a forum for collaboration and cooperation among government agencies, industry stakeholders, academia, and environmental organizations. By promoting inclusiveness and dialogue, SB3026 strengthens the partnership between these diverse groups and facilitates the development of holistic solutions to pesticide-related challenges.

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy urges the Senate Committee on Judiciary to support SB3026. This bill represents a significant opportunity to advance sustainable agriculture, protect Hawaii's environment, and support the prosperity of local farmers. We commend the legislature for prioritizing these critical issues and stand ready to assist in any way possible to ensure the successful passage of this important legislation.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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