

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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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

**FEBRUARY 10, 2025
1:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 12
RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 12 relating to neonicotinoids. The bill classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides (RUPs) and establishes a list of chemicals that shall belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals; prohibits the sale or use of seeds coated or treated with neonicotinoid pesticides; requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules that identify and regulate the most harmful neonicotinoid pesticide formulations and develop guidelines for safer alternatives. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) offers comments.

The Department currently licenses the following number of neonicotinoid products based on active ingredient:

- Actemapid: 20; 15 crop production, 5 structural pest control
- Clothianidin: 28; 6 crop production, 13 structural pest control, 4 seed treatment, 5 ornamental, 1 mixed use (crop, ornamental, structural)



- Dinotefuran: 66; 3 crop production, 54 structural pest control, 6 ornamental, 3 mixed use (ornamental, structural; ornamental indoor crop production)
- Imidacloprid: 288; 20 crop production, 171 structural pest control, 52 ornamental, 2 seed treatment, 2 lumber treatment, 1 construction additive, 40 mixed use (structural, ornamental; crop production, ornamental; structural, crop production, ornamental)
- Nitenpyram: 0
- Nithiazine: 0
- Thiacloprid: 0
- Thiamethoxam: 19; 1 crop production, 1 animal production, 3 structural pest control, 2 ornamental, 8 seed treatment, 2 mixed use (crop production, ornamental; ornamental, structural)

As noted above, 46 products with a neonicotinoid as an active ingredient have multiple uses which allow for both structural pest control and/or another use that is not exempted. This would create the potential for an applicator to purchase a neonicotinoid which should be restricted (requiring all the statutory and regulatory requirements of a restricted product) as a general use pesticide based on intended or unintended use pattern. As such, reporting requirements differ for both general use pesticides and restricted use pesticides. Specifically, if an applicator purchased an imidacloprid product with allowable uses of structural pest control, crop production, and ornamental production, the applicator would be required to report restricted use of the product for crop production and ornamental production but not structural pest control use.

The Department also has concerns that tools such as pesticide products containing neonicotinoid active ingredients, which have been found to be an effective treatment for several major invasive species including Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, will be classified as an RUP. Buffer zones, as required by Act 45, SLH 2018 reduce the areas RUPs may be used which would require use of

pesticide products which may have reduced efficacy to priority invasive pest species.

All neonicotinoid products which may come into contact with pollinators (crop production and ornamental use) have pollinator protection statements which are enforceable by the Department. The Department has only responded to two (2) pesticide complaints within the last 3 years, with one (1) complaint being provided an official Departmental action; in the second complaint the Department could not determine whether a violation occurred based on evidence and laboratory results. The one (1) complaint which resulted in an official action was not due to a neonicotinoid application as another chemical was applied and could have resulted in non-target pollinator affects.

The Department is currently working with the State Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) to determine how different states regulate similar use and regulatory patterns. SFIREG is held twice a year, and the Department will attend the meetings to discuss implementation and regulatory schemes with other states. The Department will update this committee with further findings and discussions once representatives attend and receive feedback.

The Department is unaware of any seed treatment facilities within the state, nor does the Department keep records of companies who conduct seed treatments. The treatment of seeds with neonicotinoids may occur out of state, which would classify these seeds as “treated articles” not subject to the State’s FIFRA jurisdiction. The Department would not be able to regulate seed coatings which may occur outside of the State.

The Department does not have the staff with subject matter expertise to identify “the most harmful neonicotinoid pesticide formulations”. The Department does not have the expertise to determine whether a pesticide product is

“harmful”, this work should be delegated to the Hawaii Department of Health as they have staff who may specialize in toxicology. The Department should not be the one to determine “safer alternatives”; the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) already requires signal words for most registered pesticides which provide acute toxicity information, DANGER is the most toxic, followed by WARNING, and CAUTION.

Toxicity is multi-variate, generally incorporating dose and duration. The U.S. EPA currently only provides acute toxicity as it's signal words. Prolonged durations and exposure to pesticides is poorly understood and requires further scientific studies and analysis for each active ingredients and the compounded inert ingredient effects which comprise pesticides, especially in humans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

February 10, 2025

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 12 – RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS.

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association and we are submitting comments on this bill.

We only have one small amendment that we would like to request which would appear on page 3, lines 3 and 4 indicating that the pesticides “used by the structural pest control industry for household pests in and around structures”. The word “structures” is replacing the word residences. This is because treatments are often made to industrial sites or commercial sites such as office buildings or retail stores, not just residences.

We would appreciate if the Chair would entertain such an amendment.

Thank you.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: SB12

Monday, February 10th, 2025 1:00pm. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA **strongly supports SB12** which classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides and establishes a list of chemicals that shall belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals. Prohibits the sale or use of seeds coated or treated with neonicotinoid pesticides. Requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules that identify and regulate the most harmful neonicotinoid pesticide formulations and develop guidelines for safer alternatives.

HAPA suggests the following amendments for this measure:

- Exempt in-door use pet treatments and pest control products;
- Clarify impeccably in the language a process for permitting use for conservation and emergency treatment of invasive species infestations; and
- Consider rather than classification of neonics as RUPs, an outright ban on outdoor use for turf, ornamental plants, landscaping and open air outdoor agricultural uses (similar to New York's the Birds and Bees Protection Act) or banning neonic use on all outdoor areas, allowing use only in enclosed greenhouses (in alignment with the EU).

SB12 would reclassify neonics as RUPs with the goal of providing for better oversight and reporting. Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai'i starts with some form of oversight and tracking of use, especially in the light of failure to do so on the federal level¹. Given that neonics are the most heavily used class of insecticides globally, it is all the more important to know the extent of their use in Hawaii to assess the risks to local pollinators, ecosystems (especially aquatic species) and public health.

Ideally, actions could be taken to ban these outdoor widespread uses especially in ornamental lawn care applications, or the RUP classification and details will need to be more tediously carved out to exempt targeted spot treatment for invasive species emergency use and in-home (in-door) pest control uses.

Approaches in Other States

Several states have already stepped up to protect communities from the harms of neonics². **Maine prohibits the use of most neonics in residential landscapes.**³ New Jersey passed a law

¹ [abcbirds.org/news/2023-neonic-report/](https://www.abcbirds.org/news/2023-neonic-report/)

² Beyond Pesticides (2023) States Step In to Restrict Bee-Toxic Pesticides, California the Latest in Absence of EPA Action

³ [environmentamerica.org/maine/media-center/maine-governor-signs-bill-to-save-the-bees/](https://www.environmentamerica.org/maine/media-center/maine-governor-signs-bill-to-save-the-bees/)



that **prohibits outdoor, non-agricultural neonic uses**, estimated to be up to 70% of neonics used there.⁴ Nevada **banned lawn and garden uses of neonics**, while Colorado **prohibited homeowner use of the land and garden neonic products**, similar to laws in Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

New York passed the “Birds and Bees Protection Act,” recently which was the first to specifically move to **ban neonic-treated seeds, banning ornamental and turf neonic uses, and requiring the state to take a hard look at other neonic uses and collect data on usage**. This measure even moved to completely ban neonic-treated corn, soybean, and wheat seeds.⁵ California is also taking action to regulate neonics with a proposed policy that would **ban nearly all non-agricultural uses** of the pesticides.⁶

Minnesota recently **banned neonic use on state lands and granted its home-rule subdivisions the authority to ban “pollinator-lethal pesticides”** (those with bee warning labels) under its state law preempting local authority to restrict pesticides.

All of these state-level restrictions pale in comparison to the robust protections currently implemented in the European Union (EU), where the EU has **banned neonicotinoid pesticide use on all outdoor areas, allowing use only in enclosed greenhouses**.^{7 8}

Specific Concerns in Hawai‘i

Given exemptions from tracking, reporting and federal oversight there are specific concerns about the use of neonics here in Hawai‘i. Given our history of seed production there remains on-going questions about what neonic seed coating may be happening in Hawai‘i, with absolutely no oversight this may have been occurring for decades.

We ask the legislature to please investigate and consider this as the measure moves forward and understand the urgency for oversight and that there are potential for longer term issues that may present in the future from pesticide seed coating areas, just like pesticide mixing areas during plantation.

Background and Impacts of Neonicotinoids (Neonics)

Neonics are systemic pesticides that are taken up through the life of a plant and cycled through environmental systems, by their very nature designed to persist. They are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides developed in the mid-1990s, which are now the single-most popular

⁴ [nrdc.org/experts/lucas-rhoads/new-jersey-enacts-groundbreaking-neonic-legislation](https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lucas-rhoads/new-jersey-enacts-groundbreaking-neonic-legislation)

⁵ [nrdc.org/experts/daniel-raichel/science-polling-support-renewed-ny-bill-save-bees](https://www.nrdc.org/experts/daniel-raichel/science-polling-support-renewed-ny-bill-save-bees)

⁶ <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lucas-rhoads/5-things-know-about-ca-bill-curb-bee-killing-neonics>

⁷ <https://www.science.org/content/article/european-union-expands-ban-three-neonicotinoid-pesticides>

⁸ <https://www.panna.org/blog/eu-bans-neonics-us-bees-not-so-lucky>



insecticide class in the United States. The way they work is by permanently binding to the nerve cells of insects, overstimulating and destroying them.

Given mounting science showing that neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health⁹; it seems clear now there is enough evidence to support the outright ban on these widespread outdoor uses of neonics.

In 2023 there was significant coverage of the EPA analysis that said three neonicotinoids (thiamethoxam, clothianidin and imidacloprid) threaten more than 200 endangered species – more than 1 in 10 protected species¹⁰. Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure and Hawai'i is home to seven species of endangered Hawaiian Yellow-faced Bees and an incredible range of native insects that could be at risk.

Related to human health, neonics were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse).¹¹

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water.¹² Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.¹³

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.¹⁴

Several animal studies have reported adverse effects of neonics on sperm, and prenatal exposure to neonics increasing the risk of neurodevelopmental abnormalities and birth defects. While more research is needed, these harms found to animals raise human health concerns.¹⁵

Additionally, a systematic review of publicly available literature reported a link between human neonic exposures and malformations of the developing heart and brain, as well as symptoms that include memory loss and finger tremors.¹⁶

⁹ Elizabeth D. Hilborn (2023), *Restoring Eden: Unearthing the Agribusiness Secret That Poisoned My Farming Community*

¹⁰ The Good Men Project (2023) Three Widely Used Pesticides Driving Hundreds of Endangered Species Toward Extinction, According to EPA

¹¹ <https://www.panna.org/blog/neonics-under-fire>

¹² <https://realfoodmedia.org/americas-soil-is-48-times-more-toxic-than-a-quarter-century-ago-blame-neonics/>

¹³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412014003183>

¹⁴ Beyondpesticides (2023) neonicotinoid-insecticides-add-to-the-growing-list-of-chemicals-that-transfer-between-mother-and-fetus/

¹⁵ <https://www.panna.org/blog/neonics-under-fire>

¹⁶ <https://www.panna.org/blog/neonics-under-fire>



Conclusion

We strongly support the intent of this measure and the effort to have better oversight and reporting on neonics in Hawai'i, as well as a ban on coated seeds.

Given extensive science relating to the impacts associated, the failure on the federal level to have oversight and reporting of neonic use, and the precedence of many other states taking action to protect their ecosystems from systemic pesticides we believe that a ban for turf, ornamental, landscaping, seed coatings and open air outdoor agricultural uses is warranted.

Please support SB12. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



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February 10, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 12
RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:01 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 opposes SB 12, which would classify all neonicotinoids *except those used by pest control companies in homes* and other buildings, as restricted use pesticides (RUPs), and prohibit the sale and use in Hawai'i of seeds treated with these pesticides. We have serious concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this bill to agriculture and our natural resources.

HFB recognizes and supports the robust and evidence-based regulation of pesticide products. However, outright bans and prohibitions that will take away needed tools from growers may pose serious threats to public health, agriculture, and the environment. We urge the committee to consider the following concerns:

- **Farmers especially need bees and other pollinators!**

Farmers depend on and protect bees and other pollinators, which are essential for their crops. Many farmers are beekeepers themselves and go to great lengths to provide habitat and forage for bee colonies. Studies performed around the world demonstrate that neonicotinoids are effective in controlling harmful insects in agricultural and non-agricultural settings and can be used safely and without harm to bees when used according to the law and the mandatory and enforceable label instructions. There have been no mass losses of honeybees linked to neonicotinoids, anywhere in the world.

- **Neonicotinoids provide excellent control of many pests that are otherwise very difficult to control with other methods.**

This fact is especially important in combating the many destructive invasive species that are attacking our natural resources, including our irreplaceable watersheds.

Making it more difficult for farmers to use neonicotinoids will place farms at risk from dangerous pests that can be controlled by these products. For many fruit and vegetable crops, neonicotinoid products are important components of insecticide rotations that help prevent insect resistance and decrease pesticide use. For some pests, there are few or no effective chemical alternatives available.

- **Loss of crops or use of less effective pesticides**

Making all neonicotinoids RUPs could cause growers to lose much, if not all of their crops to devastating pests, or force them to replace these pesticides with other products such as older, less targeted, and less effective chemicals that would require more frequent and heavier applications.

- **EPA and HDOA already strictly regulate all pesticides in the United States.**

In addition, our Department of Agriculture has the authority to and does further restrict the sale and use of any pesticide it deems to be a threat in our state. The many studies required by these agencies have assessed and continue to assess the safety of each neonicotinoid pesticide to humans, the environment, and wildlife.

- **Threat to Hawai'i food self-sufficiency**

Arbitrary changes to pesticide laws in Hawai'i will further impede our progress in achieving more food self-sufficiency and will instead make our home-grown products less available and more costly to residents in the face of unfair competition or lack of availability from out of state, where these pesticides are not similarly prohibited.

Recommendations:

We support measures that would give HDOA increased funding and capacity to perform its mandates, including pesticide use and safety education to ensure safeguards to protect farmers, the public, and our fragile island ecosystems.

Although nearly everyone uses pesticides in some way, not everyone is educated about their proper use. HFB encourages more education, assistance and focus regarding pesticide safety, especially for in-home use, where children may have greater exposure.

Thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i agriculture.



Officers

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Waimanalo, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, Oahu

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. **HFU supports SB12.**

By restricting these harmful chemicals and promoting safer alternatives, this bill aligns with the principles of regenerative agriculture and environmental stewardship that HFU advocates for.

HFU also supports the bill's directive for the Department of Agriculture to regulate the most harmful neonicotinoid formulations and develop guidelines for safer alternatives. Ensuring that farmers have access to effective, sustainable pest management options is critical for a successful transition away from neonicotinoids. We encourage policies that provide farmers with education, resources, and incentives to adopt integrated pest management (IPM) practices that protect both crops and pollinators. SB12 is a necessary step toward strengthening Hawaii's local food system while safeguarding the health of our agricultural lands and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:10:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Pezze	Testifying for Alchemy Farm Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a professional beekeeper on the island of Hawaii. I have seen extensive colony loss in areas where neonicotinoids are present. These chemicals kill not only honeybees but most other crucial pollinators. It is imperative that these chemicals be restricted to ensure that our food crops continue to be pollinated.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:27:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we are writing today to offer our strong support for SB12. As a farm worker myself, I know the importance of safety measures against the dangers of neonicotinoids. We need our pollinators like we need our water, our air, and our healthy soil. Chemicals have no business being in our soil. The transfer from soil to plant to our gut is documented, these chemicals do not dilute and go away, they are forever.

This being said, the Green Party of Hawai'i asks you to please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

With humble regards,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



To: The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, the Honorable Senator Tim Richards, III, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB12 RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS**

Hearing: Monday February 10, 2025, 1:01 p.m.

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

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **SUPPORTS** this legislation!

Neonicotinoids work by disrupting the nervous system of insects, which leads to paralysis and death in targeted pests. While this makes them effective insecticides, it also poses **risks to non-target species, including beneficial insects such as bees. Neonicotinoids have been linked to declines in bee populations, including both honeybees and wild pollinators.** Research indicates that exposure can impair foraging behavior, navigation, and reproductive success. Goulson, D. (2013). "An overview of the environmental risks posed by neonicotinoid insecticides." *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 50(4), 977-987. Link to study (<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1365-2664.12111>). **Honey bees in North America pollinate almost 100 kinds of fruits and nuts, including almonds, avocados, cranberries and apples.** Beyond bees, other important pollinators like butterflies and certain beetles may also be affected. **The decline of pollinator species can have cascading effects on**

plant reproduction and ecosystems. Neonicotinoids also can be toxic to birds and humans who are exposed to them.

Neonicotinoids **can be toxic to fish and invertebrates**, disrupting food webs and aquatic ecosystems. Their persistence means they can accumulate in the environment, leading to long-term ecological impacts. Gilliom, R. J., et al. (2006). "Pesticides in the Nation's Streams and Ground Water, 1992–2001." U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1291. Link to report (<https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2005/1291/>).

Neonicotinoids **persist in soil and can affect non-target organisms, including beneficial insects and soil-dwelling organisms**. This persistence can lead to long-term ecological impacts. Simon-Delso, N., et al. (2015). "Systemic insecticides (neonicotinoids and fipronil): trends, uses, mode of action and metabolites." *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 22(1), 1-15. Link to study (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-014-3470-0>).

Farmers may face challenges from reduced efficacy of neonicotinoids due to resistance, leading to increased costs for pest control. The decline in pollinators can also impact crop yields, particularly for fruits, vegetables, and nuts, which rely heavily on pollination. The movement against neonicotinoids has encouraged some farmers to adopt more sustainable practices, such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and organic farming methods, which can benefit the environment in the long run.

The overuse of neonicotinoids can lead to resistance in pest populations, prompting increased use of these chemicals and potentially leading to a **decline in biodiversity**. Van der Sluijs, J. P., et al. (2015). "Comparative risk assessment of neonicotinoids and other pesticides: a global perspective." *Environmental Sciences Europe*, 27(1), 1-12. Link to study (<https://enveurope.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s12302-015-0040-4>).

The **environmental risks associated with neonicotinoids are well-documented**, leading to increased scrutiny and regulatory actions in various regions. **Many countries have begun to restrict or ban the use of neonicotinoids, including members of the European Union, Canada, and others. The EU, for instance, has implemented a near-total ban on outdoor uses of neonicotinoids.** European Commission. (2018). "Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/783 of 29 May 2018." Link to regulation (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R0783>).

About eleven states have restricted neonicotinoids: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

The **harmful impact on pollinators, aquatic life, and overall biodiversity** underscores the need for careful management of neonicotinoids and consideration of alternative pest control methods.

Neonicotinoids are not the only way to control pests in agriculture; there are several alternatives. By integrating these alternatives into agricultural practices, farmers can help protect pollinator populations and maintain sustainable ecosystems while managing pests effectively.

To protect our environment, including critical pollinators, neonicotinoids should be classified as restricted use pesticides. A non-exhaustive list of chemicals classified as neonicotinoids should be established. Sales of seeds coated with neonicotinoids should be prohibited.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 12
RELATING TO NEONICOTINIDS

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 10, 2025

1:01PM

Room 224

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

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB12, which: (1) classifies neonicotinoids, or neonics, as restricted use pesticides (RUPs), (2) establishes a list of chemicals that shall belong to the neonic class of chemicals, (3) prohibits the sale or use of seeds coated or treated with neonics, and (4) requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules identifying and regulating the most harmful neonic pesticide formulations and develop guidelines for safer alternatives. Effective pesticide management is essential to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of Hawai'i's unique ecosystems. SB 12 ensures better practices by strengthening reporting requirements and restricting the use of these pesticides.

Neonics are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic insecticides that are used on agricultural crops, lawns, gardens, golf courses, and in flea and tick pet treatments. Unfortunately, they do not discriminate between "pest" insects and pollinators like butterflies, bees, and other wildlife. Since their introduction, neonics have made U.S. agriculture nearly 50 times more harmful to insect life.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about half the U.S. population is exposed to at least one type of neonicotinoid on a regular basis, with children ages three to five having the greatest exposures.² Peer-reviewed research has linked exposure to neonics while in the womb to birth defects, such as deformations of the heart and brain.³

¹ Stephen Leahy, "Insect 'apocalypse' in U.S. driven by 50x increase in toxic pesticides," National Geographic (August 6, 2019), <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/insect-apocalypse-under-way-toxic-pesticides-agriculture>

² Ospina, Maria et al. "Exposure to Neonicotinoid Insecticides in the U.S. General Population: Data from the 2015–2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey" vol. 176, 2019, <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/154555>

³ Dr. Jennifer Sass, "Neonic Pesticides: Potential Risk to Brain and Sperm," NRDC (January 6, 2021), <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/jennifer-sass/neonic-pesticides-potential-risks-brain-and-sperm>

Neonics are considered “systemic” pesticides, meaning they can be applied directly to the soil, around a plant’s roots, or as a coating on a plant seed, which the plant then soaks up as it grows. Only a small portion of the neonics make it into the plant, about 2 to 5 percent for most seed coatings, leaving about 95 percent in the soil. Once in the soil, neonics can remain active for years, and rain or irrigation water can easily carry them long distances to contaminate new soil, plant life, and water supplies. **Alarminglly, a 2015 study by the US Geological survey found neonic pollution in more than half of the streams it sampled nationwide⁴, and more recent studies confirm conventional water treatment processes cannot effectively remove them⁵.**

Classifying neonics as RUPs would mitigate the harm these dangerous and long-lasting substances cause to the environment. RUPs can only be distributed and sold by a licensed dealer and only to certified applicators. It is a violation of state and federal laws to use RUPs unless the person is a certified pesticide applicator or under the direct supervision of a certified pesticide applicator. Beginning January 1, 2019, every user of RUPs was required to submit a record of their use of RUPs. Required items to be reported include the date of application, the product that was applied, the amount that was applied, and the area treated. These reports are due by January 30th of the following year. From these submissions, the Hawai’i Department of Agriculture makes a summary report of the pesticides used in each county and can assess the volume of hazardous pesticides going into our environment and the cumulative effects of such use.⁶

SB12 is a commonsense measure which ensures licensed professionals are present when these hazardous pesticides are applied, and that their scope of use is limited, regulated and reported. Considering the fragile state of Hawaii’s groundwater and ecosystems, it is our responsibility to adopt better practices, and malama ‘āina.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges this committee to **PASS SB12**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

⁴ Courtney Lindwall, “Neonicotinoids 101: The Effects on Humans and Bees,” Natural Resources Defense Council (May 25, 2022), [Effects of Neonicotinoids on Humans and Bees](#) (last visited Feb. 9, 2025).

⁵ Chensheng Lu et. Al, “Neonicotinoid insecticides in the drinking water system—Fate, transportation, and their contributions to th e overall dietary risks,” ScienceDirect (March 2020), *available at* [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749119351383#:~:text=Because%20drinking%20water%20is%20an,remove%20NNIs%20\(Klarich%20et%20al](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749119351383#:~:text=Because%20drinking%20water%20is%20an,remove%20NNIs%20(Klarich%20et%20al).

⁶ “Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP) Reports,” State of Hawaii Plant Industry Division (April 20, 2021), <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/rup-use-reports/>

February 10, 2025

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 12 (Inouye): Neonicotinoids - Oppose

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

On behalf of the Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA)¹, I respectfully write to oppose Senate Bill 12, which seeks to adopt restrictions on common and important pest management options using the neonicotinoid class of pesticides.

Consumer pest products allow Hawaii residents in all communities the ability to clean and protect their homes with safe and affordable products against a variety of public health pests. Without access to such products, consumers must choose between taking no action against these pests or paying someone to perform services.

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiamethoxam) available commercially for use in crop and animal agriculture, urban landscapes, domestic settings, and around structures. Neonicotinoids were developed in large part because they are both effective and a safer alternative to previously used organophosphate and carbamate insecticides.

Follow the Science

HCPA member companies manufacture neonicotinoid-based products which are used for several common insect pest management applications, including addressing bed bugs, flies, stink bugs, cockroaches, grubs, and certain invasive species. Additionally, neonicotinoid products are used for controlling pet (dog and cat) insect pests. All of these applications have been evaluated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA risk assessments focus on both ecological and human health effects – a process guided by scientific advisory panels.

¹ HCPA is the premier trade association representing the interests of companies engaged in the manufacture, formulation, distribution, and sale of more than \$180 billion annually in the U.S. of familiar consumer products that help household and institutional customers create cleaner and healthier environments. HCPA member companies employ hundreds of thousands of people globally. Products HCPA represents include disinfectants that kill germs in homes, hospitals, and restaurants; air fresheners, room deodorizers, and candles that eliminate odors; pest management products for home, lawn and garden, and pets; cleaning products and polishes for use throughout the home and institutions; products used to protect and improve the performance and appearance of automobiles; aerosol products and a host of other products used every day.

Specifically, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the EPA reviews all current pesticide registrations to ensure they continue to meet the protective FIFRA risk standard in light of new information and evolving science. EPA is currently undertaking review of the class of neonicotinoids with planned completion for each category this year. HCPA believes the nuanced scientific evaluations of various applications and uses of these pesticides is best left to the rigorous process at the US EPA.

A comprehensive report by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) describe a broad range of issues or “stressors” negatively affecting bees, including habitat loss, parasites and diseases, lack of genetic diversity, climate change, pesticides, reduced forage options and pathogens. The research and data collected nationally and specific to the Hawaii shows the leading stressor to honeybee colonies is overwhelmingly varroa mites. Any legislation seeking to protect pollinator populations that ignores the most influential stressors will not be successful.

EPA’s Pollinator Protection Plan sets forth methods of using neonicotinoids and other products to further reduce the risk of exposure to pollinators. We urge lawmakers to recognize the EPA Pollinator Protection Plan and allow the federal and state regulatory system to continue to regulate the use of pesticides. The U.S. EPA and the state regulatory agencies are in strong positions to determine appropriate pesticide use through continued evaluation of the latest scientific findings on pollinators, the environment and public health. We believe members of the legislature should avoid undermining this process by prejudging outcomes in proposed legislation.

Restricted Use Approach Creates Broad Prohibition

HCPA appreciates the recognition that neonicotinoids have useful applications by allowing professional applicators to continue to use these products. However, by applying a *restricted use* status to all consumer uses and applications of neonicotinoids, common uses would be banned, even if they have no interaction with pollinators. For example, this bill would *prohibit*:

- Any indoor use
- Common pet products
- The use of pest control in animal husbandry, ranches, and farms;
- Fly traps used in and around structures;
- Perimeter treatment to stop pests from entering homes and structures;
- Consumer baits for roaches, flies and ants such as granular scatter bait;

The prohibition of sales would become law without substantial evidence that any of the uses cited above would result in significant interactions with pollinators (let alone the US EPA’s broader evaluation). It should be incumbent upon the legislature to identify in the law what specific insecticide uses it believes are contributing to the stated problem(s). Other states such as California and Washington state took this approach when regulating this issue.

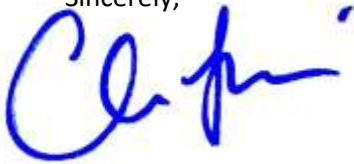
The safety of consumers is the highest priority for HCPA members. HCPA member companies manufacture products that are safe when used according to the directions on the label. Manufacturers are continuously focusing on the safety of products and packaging, as well as helping to prevent improper use of their products. Users are encouraged to determine the most appropriate product for the need, and to read and follow all label directions.

We support initiatives to promote pollinator health and believe its complexity calls for thoughtful, stakeholder-engaged solutions. We support continued research on the risks to bee health and readily acknowledge the critical importance of pollinators to our ecosystem and economy, however, in

recognition of the work by the US EPA and lack of adequate science to support the measure, HCPA respectfully opposes SB 12.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss these concerns and can be reached at cfinarelli@thehcpa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Finarelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Finarelli

Sr. Director, State Government Relations & Public Policy

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:09:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Dahlman	Testifying for CropLife America	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CropLife America (CLA) is the national association representing manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of pesticides products used in agriculture production. We support and promote scientific-based policy in the regulation of pesticide products at both the state and federal level and advocate in the best interests of farmers. We are in opposition to SB 12.

While farmers rely on a variety of tools to manage pests, in urban and suburban settings, professionals and consumers also rely on the class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids (neonics). When used correctly and according to the label, neonicotinoids are highly effective in reducing targeted destructive insects to protect crops and urban environments. They protect homes, control bed bugs, and manage invasive insects such as aphids often found on bananas, papayas, and coconuts. Neonics also kill fleas, certain wood boring pests, flies, and cockroaches which is why these pesticides are popular in Hawaii.

Farmers use an integrated approach to pest management (IPM) which allows them to reduce reliance on pesticides, using them only when and where necessary and in the smallest amounts possible. Neonicotinoids' water solubility reduces the risk for insecticide drift from the target site as they are applied directly to the soil and absorbed by plants, resulting in a safer environment for animals and humans. While concerns have been raised about the impact of neonics on bees, farmers depend on and protect bees and other pollinators because they are essential for their crops. Since many farmers are beekeepers themselves, they go to great lengths to provide habitat and forage for bee colonies, such as planting wildflowers around their cropland.

Many large-scale studies conducted by a variety of countries found that poor bee health correlates with the presence of mites, viruses, and other factors. To keep risk to bees and other beneficial insects low, farmers will (1) follow the label directions carefully, (2) restrict neonic applications to the soil or during times when bees are not foraging (like in the evening), and (3) treat only those crops which need treatment for a known pest infestation as part of their IPM approach. Although this bill may target agricultural use of neonics, the unintended consequence is that consumers and other professionals rely on these products to keep their families and properties safe from pests. And it is an important tool for farmers working hard to remain viable.

Please hold SB 12.

February 10, 2025

Gerald Michael Gabbard, Chair
Hawaii Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
415 S Beretania St State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813-2425

Dear Chairman Gabbard:

On behalf of companies that make medicine for animals, I am writing to ask that pesticide products approved for use in animals not be subject to the requirements of SB 12, a bill amending the definition of “restricted use pesticides” to include neonicotinoid pesticides.

The Animal Health Institute (AHI) is the U.S. trade association for research-based manufacturers of animal health products – the medicines that keep pets and livestock healthy. Animal health companies work to provide veterinarians, food producers and pet owners with high-quality, effective and innovative products. Products that could be restricted by this legislation, including companion animal flea and tick collars and spot-on topicals, have been reviewed and registered as safe and effective by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Veterinary products containing neonicotinoids, which are approved by EPA, have proven to be highly effective in protecting pets from parasites that can cause vector diseases. The EPA review process is thorough in its examination of safety for animals, humans and the environment, and approved products are continually monitored following regulatory approval and marketing. EPA does not designate products for use in animals as restricted use pesticides (RUPs). The requirements of RUPs, including application by a certified applicator, do not apply to veterinary products. Veterinarians should not be required to obtain certified applicator licenses to provide flea and tick prevention to clients.

We ask that veterinary pesticide products intended for use in animals not be subject to the requirements of this bill. In Section 2 of the bill, where “neonicotinoid” is added to the definition of restricted use pesticide, we suggest this possible exemption language:

Except that a restricted use pesticide shall not include pesticide products used to treat, or administered to, animals and regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,



Mandy Hagan, Director, State Government Affairs



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Jon Gaeta, Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment

Date: 2/10/2025

RE: *SB 12; Relating to Neonicotinoids*

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning SB 12, which would reclassify neonicotinoids as a state restricted use. **We respectfully oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable vote.**

The neonicotinoid-based products available to consumers are among the safest insecticides for people and the environment and are the latest innovation in insecticides. This aspect of these products should not be overlooked – neonicotinoids may often be the best solution due to their lower environmental impact and safety for people and pets. Because of their selective control, neonicotinoids help ensure beneficial insects remain available to keep other potential pests in check.

Pesticides in Hawai'i are regulated at both the State and Federal level. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) governs pesticide regulation to protect applicators, consumers, and the environment. FIFRA enforcement is focused on the sale, distribution, and use of pesticides. Before a pesticide may be sold in the U.S. it must be registered with the EPA. Neonicotinoid insecticides have been registered by the EPA due to their favorable environmental profile and their low risk to human health.

Hawaiian residents need access to affordable, DIY neonicotinoid products to protect their families and pets from ticks and to protect their highly valued trees from hala scale, an invasive insect that damages hala leaves as well as the tree's fruit and young seedlings. Hala scale originated in Hana, Maui in 1995 but has since spread to Moloka'i and O'ahu. The Department of Agriculture specifically cites the use of neonics to combat the invasive pest.

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2021/04/hala-scale-PA-15-01-update-4-8-2021.pdf>

We believe the best way forward will be collaborative, focusing on increased outreach and engagement with all residents, including professional applicators, consumers, growers, commercial property owners, land managers and beekeepers, about positive steps each can take to increase forage and habitat and to prevent diseases such as Varroa mite and Nosema in managed hives. Evaluating and supporting pollinator health is complex, which means there is no simple, one-step solution for this multi-factor issue.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to share our perspective about meaningful and data-driven support for pollinators. We ask the committee for an unfavorable vote on SB 12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Gaeta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jon" and last name "Gaeta" clearly distinguishable.

Jon Gaeta
Senior Director, Government Affairs
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
JGaeta@pestfacts.org 202-695-5725



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SB12 – In Opposition
Relating to Neonicotinoids

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025
Time: 1:01 PM
Place: Conference Room 224

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

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition to SB12**, which classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides (RUP) and establishes a list of chemicals that shall belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

Neonicotinoids are among the safest pesticides for people and the environment. Eliminating these insecticides would remove valuable crop protection tools for those farmers who do not have an RUP applicators license. It also serves as an effective tool to combat the extremely important invasive species crisis. As our state seeks to increase local food production, grow the agriculture industry, and protect our community from the influx of invasive species, a measure like this represents a significant roadblock.

Hawaii's farmers practice integrated pest management, which includes using beneficial insects to reduce pests and weeds while using pesticides only when necessary. Neonicotinoids allows for this process to take place because it ensures the beneficial insects remain available to keep the other potential harmful pests in check. Eliminating low-risk, highly effective products like neonicotinoids would only force farmers to use heavier, costlier products.

Additionally, all pesticides undergo a rigorous scientific review process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began registration review of the neonicotinoid class in 2016. Since that time, experienced scientific staff have conducted detailed risk assessments looking at the benefits and impacts (both human and ecological). In 2020, the EPA released proposed interim decisions for several neonicotinoids that contained new mitigations to reduce any ecological risks, particularly to pollinators.

Hawaii farmers follow the regulations and guidance of the U.S. EPA and Department of Agriculture. Because of their expertise, these agencies are trusted to provide a regulatory structure that is both safe and necessary to support a thriving agriculture industry. To have the state categorize neonicotinoids as an RUP would be an action that ignores the U.S. EPA's science-based and rigorous regulatory review process and would create another significant challenge to our local farming community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and we ask that you do not advance this measure.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:45:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:26:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:49:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

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Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:51:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:19:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Janik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A no brainer

Richard Janik, MD

Lihue, Kauai

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:56:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hennessy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risks to humans, pollinators, and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil, and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and the diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the decline of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for the treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Mahalo,

Lisa Hennessy, Princeville

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:50:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local food in Hawaii should be protected without use of any chemicals.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:23:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Timothy ,Kapaa

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:35:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12. Mahalo.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:23:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect pollinators please

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:37:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:09:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cailey Etherington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This a no brainer come on

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:44:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:25:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In thee twenty five years I've lived on Kaua'i the numbers of bees in our garden have plummeted so drastically that it is obvious. We must clean up the land, especially from neonics and other toxic products, or we will have no productive land. Please pass this bill.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:29:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

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Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:08:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dita Škalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

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SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:37:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

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Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:12:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:42:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoids, commonly referred to as neonics, present a serious threat to human health, pollinators, and the overall well-being of the environment. Recent incidents in Mead, Nebraska have associated these chemicals with alarming health issues, including unexpected nosebleeds, persistent coughs, and fainting spells during physical activity. Beyond the impact on human health, the local community has experienced troubling livestock health issues and fatalities, alongside alarming cases of "bee kills," characterized by sudden colony collapses. Even minimal exposure to neonics can be lethal to bees and other essential pollinators.

The ramifications of neonics extend to insects, soil, and water sources, often surpassing current regulatory standards in surface water. This excessive presence poses a considerable threat to water quality and the diverse range of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife that these ecosystems support.

Growing evidence indicates that the use of neonicotinoids significantly contributes to the decline of various bird and fish populations. Studies have also found that fetal exposure to these chemicals can lead to birth defects in deer and increased mortality rates among fawns. Similar to other pesticide compounds, neonics and their breakdown products can easily transfer from mothers to their developing offspring.

In light of these concerns, it is essential to amend SB12 to allow exemptions for the treatment of invasive species. With eleven other states already imposing restrictions on neonicotinoid use, we urge support for SB12 to safeguard our environment and public health.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:56:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:09:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Susan Wong, Kailua, HI

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:32:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids,

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:49:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB 12, which will limit the use of neonicotinoids, with an amendment to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please take action to protect humans, insects and wildlife by supporting SB 12 and restricting the use of neonicotinoids.

Thank you

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:11:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:28:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:18:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, **please support SB 12.**

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:33:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kimo Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill in lock step and verbatim with many colleagues.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health.

Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:26:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics have been prove to be detrimental to many living creatures - why continue to allow such unsustainable practices - please ban the use of neonic based toxins

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:53:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Chair and Committee members,

Please support SB12. Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health.

My biggest concern is that exposing bees to neonics can cause sudden colony collapse, and we desperately need our pollinators! Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish.

One important note: Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:04:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you chair and esteemed members,

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum, ‘Ewa Beach

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:10:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Thank you,
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:32:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Mahalo,

Isis Usborne (96815)

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:19:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Thanks for your consideration, Mary True

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:00:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

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Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:45:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Piotrowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonicotinoidss pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse).

Neonicotinoids have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Neonicotinoids pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonicotinoids use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonicotinoids and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:12:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:44:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards, III, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please support SB 12 which, to my understanding, would restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:49:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am writing as a family farmer and a concerned resident of Hawaii for 37 years. Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

Thank you for yur consideration,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:46:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators and environmental health. Recently they were linked to sudden nosebleeds, constant coughing, and passing out while exercising in Mead, Nebraska. In addition to the human toll, the community saw livestock health problems and deaths, as well as “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). Neonics have the ability to kill bees and other pollinators with extraordinarily low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support.

Evidence continues to mount that neonic use is a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish. Research has also linked exposure in the womb with birth defects in deer as well as higher rates of death for fawns. Neonics and their breakdown products (metabolites), like other chemical pesticide compounds, can readily transfer from mother to fetus.

Please amend SB12 to include exemptions for treatment of invasive species. Eleven other states have already restricted the use of neonicotinoids, please support SB 12.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:11:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

as a person with a BS in hotricultue who has pursued ag pursuits in kona for 40 years, i know what bees and other pollinators mean to our lives, our food, and the beauty and bounty aorund us. i also see how they're abused in many ways that no one sees or thinks of (leaf blowers pop into my mind as devastating to importnat insect populations).

please pass SB12 to help protect pollinators, our health, our economy and the Web of LIfе.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:28:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlin Joy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect our pollinators.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 4:03:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neonics pose significant risk to humans, pollinators, and environmental health. They are linked to “bee kills” (sudden colony collapse). They can kill pollinators with extremely low levels of exposure.

Neonics pose significant risks to insects, soil, and water. They are a major contributor to the declines of birds and fish.

We need to protect Hawai'i's bees, birds, and fish. Please support SB12 and use your power to limit the use of neonics.

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:08:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support on behalf of the Bees and all life!

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Fern Holland
Arryl Kaneshiro



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

February 10, 2025

TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 12, RELATING TO NEONICOTINOIDS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 10, 2025
1:01 p.m.
Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 12, Relating to Neonicotinoids. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

I am in strong support of regulations for neonicotinoids and have been advocating action to protect communities and our environment, for years. Thank you for hearing SB 12.

Thank you for including the important aspect of regulating neonic coated "treated" seeds. Prohibiting the sale or use of seeds coated (or treated) with neonicotinoid pesticides is a win for Hawai'i, our pollinators, our aquatic life and our people.

Relating to the first action of SB12, classifying neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides and establishes a list of chemicals that shall belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals:

After conversations with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and partners in other states, regarding measures and controls for neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics), I have come to understand that **a ban is more easily implemented than registration as a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP)**. I strongly recommend amending this measure to just outright ban some uses of neonics, as other states have successfully done.

I thoroughly understand that the practicality of applying a RUP classification to this entire class of pesticides is much harder to implement than targeted banning, because of the widespread use of neonics in so many products and for so many uses. Selectively banning some uses of neonics has seemed to be most successful in reducing this massive use and drift of these pesticides, and can help curb the tide on non target exposures.

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee
Re: SB 12, Relating to Neonicotinoids
February 10, 2025
Page 2

Twelve states have already banned neonics in some form. [The NY bill](#), which is one of the strongest measures, also bans treated seeds. These seeds are a huge risk to our environment, especially pollinator and aquatic life. For Hawai'i, where we are so dependent on aquatic life, we also need to be proactive and ban the use of treated seeds.

The movement (drift) of neonics, coated onto treated seeds, into adjacent streams and ecosystems has catastrophic impacts on the environment and devastate insect and aquatic life. I strongly support the inclusion of a ban on treated seed.

Many of the states, most recently Washington, that have banned some uses of neonics, have gone for a less comprehensive ban. These measures choose to first ban over the counter landscape use, lawn and turf products, and ornamental uses.

We need to specifically and clearly exempt certain products from this ban, for example lice and bedbug treatments, wood treatment (structural and pest control abatement), flea & tick medications. We need to clearly exempt use for serious invasive species infestations like, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and Fire Ants, and animal husbandry uses.

The third part of this measure, requiring the DoA to adopt rules that identify and regulate the most harmful neonicotinoid pesticide formulations and develop guidelines for safer alternatives, is a solution to then help us ween off our uses in agriculture and other common applications moving forward.

Why does all this matter?

Widespread and heavy use of neonics are decimating our pollinator and larvae populations and having catastrophic ecological (and economic) impacts globally.

Society relies on pollinators, which pollinate one out of every three bites of food, a \$577 billion [value](#). Yet, pollinators are [declining at large percentages](#) across the U.S. with neonicotinoids [found](#) to be a leading contributor.

Hawai'i has a wide range of endemic insect species and the only federally listed endangered and protected bees, and we can't afford to have them impacted by widespread and negligent use of neonics.

In addition, we are currently relying on a handful of neonic uses to combat significant pests, so we need to limit widespread uses so that we are not creating resistance for those cases when we really need them. Just like antibiotics, excessive use in our environment can push pest populations to form resistance more quickly. Then these products end up not working when we may really need them, to battle something urgent like CRB. Therefore, limitation of such widespread use, is actually a smart biosecurity move.

I encourage you to read about the [EPA Admitting Grave Harm to Hundreds of Endangered Species from Neonicotinoid Insecticides](#) and why protection from neonics

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is really left to the states. I also suggest this article that talks more about the seed coating here: [Why Farmers Use Harmful Insecticides They May Not Need](#).

There is incredible testimony and science in the book [Restoring Eden](#), written by Dr Elizabeth Hilborn who watched as her family fruit farm of many years became increasingly diminished, suffering from a lack of bees. She related it directly to the runoff from the seed coatings on the adjacent corn farm.

Thank you for taking up these important issues and I strongly support regulations to ban and manage the widespread unchecked use of neonics in our environment.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 12. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,



FERN HOLLAND
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:slr

SB-12

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:27:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not reasonable!