



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1304 SD 2 HD 1
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 28, 2025

3:30PM

Room 308

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 1304 SD 2 HD 1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study and requires the Department of Agriculture to contract with an independent consultant to conduct the study. OHA recognizes that effective pesticide management is essential to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our unique ecosystems.

Children attending schools in Hawai'i are intended to be protected by a regulation that restricts the most drift-prone agricultural pesticides during normal school hours. Historically, this has not been the case. A cursory search of Hawai'i media revealed numerous episodes in which pesticides drifted to schools, affecting the health of hundreds of students and their teachers.¹ Children and teachers have the right to a safe environment while in school.

¹ Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawai'i's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (May 2015), at p. 37; 38, https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/hawaii_second-edition_corrected_67845.pdf

Pesticide exposure is linked to a wide range of health harms, including Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, bladder and colon cancers, Parkinson's disease, depression, and disrupting our hormonal or endocrine systems.² Children are more sensitive to the effects of pesticides exposure than adults³, and Native Hawaiians are disproportionately impacted by pesticide exposure.⁴ Further study is needed to ensure Hawai'i's children are not exposed to off-target pesticide applications. This measure provides funding to continue the study, strengthening the State's ability to assess risks, implement mitigation strategies, and promote responsible pesticide use.

Therefore, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges this committee to **PASS SB 1304 SD 2 HD 1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

² Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawai'i's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (May 2015), at p.

5, https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/hawaii_second-edition_corrected_67845.pdf

³ Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawai'i's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (May 2015), at p.

5, https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/hawaii_second-edition_corrected_67845.pdf

⁴ Lilian Dorka, Daria Neal, Joe Leonard, Jr. Ph.D., "Complaint Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, 40 C.F.R. Part 7, and 7 C.F.R. Part 15," Earthjustice (September 14, 2016), https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/complaint_0.pdf

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 28, 2025
3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1304, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1304, SD2, HD1 relating to pesticide drift monitoring. The bill appropriates funding to the Department to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. The Department strongly supports this bill.

The Department is required to complete the Pesticide Drift Monitoring Project to be in compliance with the informal resolution negotiated under EPA Complaint No: 44RNO-16-R9. The Department must also complete the Pesticide Drift Monitoring Project to be in compliance with Act 045, SLH 2018.

The Department requests clarity on section 2, subsection 2: "The department of agriculture shall contract with an independent consultant to conduct the study; and" as the Department is already in contract with the University of Hawai'i. The Department suggests the following changes; "The department of agriculture shall contract with an independent consultant to conduct a review of the study; and".

If the requested changes are made, the Department requests an additional allocation to contract the independent consultant and an extension of time to report the findings to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 28, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1304 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

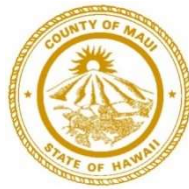
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 1304 SD2 HD1 relating to pesticide drift monitoring which appropriates funding to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study.

The DOA in collaboration with University of Hawai'i at Mānoa CTAHR initiated a statewide pesticide drift monitoring project in 2023. Funding for two years from 2023 - 2024 was appropriated by the Legislature. CTAHR supports the intent of SB 1304 SD2 HD1 which appropriates additional funds to DOA to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study to ensure public health and safety with appropriate mitigation techniques and best management practices for agriculture and food production. CTAHR defers to DOA regarding clarity on section 2, subsection 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: March 27, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB1304 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT
MONITORING STUDY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this measure. The act appropriates funding to the department of agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. We need accurate and real time data of pesticide use occurring near our schools to be able to measure the level of negative impact to our keiki. Our keiki are our most vulnerable and treasured members of our community that need to be protected.
2. Research proves, going back to 2019, that indicates the likely amount of carcinogenic drift from pesticide use, in central O'ahu alone, was over 240,00 lbs. The research and data related to statewide pesticide drift needs to be updated and transparent so that community members know who is impacted by these toxic fumigants.
3. This data will better inform our decision making on all levels so that we can limit and mitigate pesticide drifts impacts on the environment and our public health and safety.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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March 28, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 1304, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1304, SD2, HD1 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study.

Our members and their children and grandchildren are your neighbors and friends who live in communities throughout the State. We are advocates for environmentally responsible pesticide use practices and we recognize the importance of conducting appropriate research to better understand potential pesticide air concentrations.

Air monitoring is a useful tool that can be part of the Pesticide Branch's continuous pesticide evaluation process, which includes its pre-registration risk analysis for Hawai'i-specific conditions, pesticide use education and outreach, RUP tracking, inspections, and regulatory enforcement. Evaluating the risk and impact, as well as the benefits of pesticide use in Hawai'i is important to inform any actions or mitigation measures needed to continue to protect people and the environment.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports evidence-based pesticide laws and regulations, along with a robust outreach and education program for all pesticide users, including the public.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers who have the honor of and responsibility for providing Hawai'i with its agricultural needs.



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) with Comments on: SB1304 SD2 HD1

Friday, March 28th, 2025 3:30 p.m. Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee,

HAPA provides the following comments in regards to SB1304 SD2 HD1 which requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a drift monitoring study for schools in Hawaii.

HAPA supports the intent of this bill. We have spent a considerable amount of time analyzing the restricted use pesticide (RUP) use reporting data and reviewing the body of peer reviewed research/studies on the impacts of pesticide exposure. Our review of the data has indicated that schools in areas of heavy RUP usage in Hawaii may be exposed to drift on an ongoing basis and that surrounding communities may be exposed to off target drift and associated risks.

However, we have concerns with 1) with the lack of data available to inform this proposed study, and 2) the methodology and findings of the 2013 drift study conducted for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. If there is insufficient data and a poorly designed study, findings could provide a false sense of safety for residents who may in fact be chronically exposed. There is a long history of industry funded, short-term studies that falsely conclude that no threat or harm is occurring because they fail to examine the long-term chronic exposure and impacts. These unsupported studies are often utilized to undermine much needed public health protections.^{1 2 3 4}

HAPA recommends that SB1304 be amended to include a provision requiring an independent consultant. The findings of the University group, Li et al., who conducted the 2013 drift study [Final Project Report for Kauai Air Sampling Study]⁵ are poor and unsupportable. A critique of the methodology and findings of the 2013 study by an EPA pesticide violation investigator, Dr Milt Clark, can be found in appendixes of the Joint Fact Finding Report: Pesticide Use by Large Agribusiness on Kauai⁶.

¹ <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/27082024/epa-pesticide-cancer-risk-research-regulation/>

² <https://www.panna.org/resources/corporate-science-spin/>

³ <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2024/10/industry-study-diminishes-organic-promotes-integrated-pest-management-pushes-pesticides-in-regenerative-ag/>

⁴ <https://usrtk.org/monsanto/glyphosate-science-denial/>

⁵ <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Waimea-Canyon-Air-Study.pdf>

⁶ <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/special-reports/>



How Gaps in Current RUP Reporting Requirements Undermine Study Integrity:

There is a lack of geospatial specificity for large TMK's where RUP's are applied. There is also a lack of transparency in terms of when pesticides are applied. California requires reporting within a square mile. Many of the long-term epidemiological studies that have found conclusive evidence of health impacts from pesticide exposure have been able to reach this level of inquiry because they are long-term in nature, and they have geographically specific enough data to arrive at these findings credibly. The lack of geospatial specificity in our current reporting requirements do not allow for credible peer reviewed studies.

The Importance of Study Methodology

There are an abundance of long-term peer reviewed studies which have determined health effects from pesticide exposure. These studies are cited in several expert testimony submitted for a recent hearing for SB352, a bill to increase RUP buffer zones around schools and parks. (see pages 26-28; 39-45; 78-80).⁷ Several of the studies referenced were conducted over decades, thus taking into account the long-term chronic effects of exposure. Importantly, these studies and their methodology were informed by robust reporting data. Poorly conducted studies can provide communities with false assurances and ultimately undermine the need for more robust data and protections.

While HAPA supports the rigorous study of the public health and environmental impacts of pesticide exposure via drift, our preference would be for the legislature to act upon the abundance of data that already exists and take more concrete measures to protect our keiki who are the most vulnerable to pesticide exposure as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.⁸

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is placed below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

⁷https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/Testimony/SB352_TESTIMONY_AEN_01-29-25_.PDF

⁸<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/130/6/e1757/30399/Pesticide-Exposure-in-Children?autologincheck=redirected>



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Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawai'i 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 SB1304.**

By continuously monitoring pesticide drift, this bill aims to generate critical data that can help mitigate potential adverse effects on our communities, ensuring that pesticide use is managed wisely and safely. Expanding the scope of this monitoring effort to include areas surrounding farms and residential zones is a logical extension of this initiative. Pesticide drift does not adhere to man-made boundaries, and a broader monitoring network would offer a more holistic understanding of drift patterns across various land uses. This is essential for comprehensive risk management and for supporting sustainable farming practices that prioritize both productivity and community well-being.

Furthermore, incorporating a provision for public access to the data collected through these monitoring efforts would enhance transparency and trust among stakeholders. By involving the community in discussions about pesticide use and impacts, we can collaboratively work towards strengthening agricultural practices that coexist harmoniously with the health and safety of all residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



March 28, 2025

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Support of SB 1304, SD 2, HD1 RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. Effective 7/1/3000. [HD1])

FIN Meeting: Friday, March 28, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, utility companies and land use professionals. LURF's mission is to research and advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth, housing, agriculture, and renewable energy, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural, historic, and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support for SB 1304, SD2, HD1.**

SB 1304, SD2, HD1. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the continued monitoring of pesticide drift in schools statewide.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers, ranchers, and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises. Over the past century, LURF members continue to be strong supporters of agriculture, have led the Hawaii in agricultural lands acreage and production, and over the past two decades have partnered with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and its Neighbor Island chapters (Hawaii Farm Bureau) and the Department of Agriculture (Department) to advocate for, and pass numerous laws that support agriculture, including the Right to Farm and Important Agricultural Lands laws. The Hawaii Farm Bureau and LURF have consistently supported initiatives, programs, funding, and incentives for diversified agriculture and a broad range of farming and ranching to sustain and improve Hawaii's agricultural industry and food security. LURF also joins the Hawaii Farm Bureau in supporting evidence-based pesticide laws and regulations, along with a robust outreach and education program for all pesticide users.

LURF supports this measure, which is being proposed by the Governor to continue and complete an ongoing statewide drift monitoring study by the Department, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, which was initiated in 2023 as part of a consent agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that once completed, the drift monitoring data from the project will be available to both public and private entities and the Department and agricultural industry can continue to employ appropriate mitigation techniques, and implementation of best management practices.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of SB 1304, SD 2, HD1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

SB-1304-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:48:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.