

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRUARY 26, 2025
10:03 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1304, SD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1304, SD1 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, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, initiated the Pesticide Drift Monitoring Project in October 2023. Recruitment to fill post-docs and procurement of lab equipment were required to ensure the University has laboratory capacity to analyze any samples. Both partners met on February 20, 2025, to discuss logistics, methodology, and sampling protocols for the project.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 26, 2025

10:03AM

Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides the following **COMMENTS** regarding SB 1304 SD 1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. While OHA supports the intent of this measure, we echo the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action's (HAPA) recommendation for the legislature to act upon the abundance of data that already exists and take more concrete measures to protect our keiki in schools.

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 Further, a University of California, Berkely study documented drift up to 1.8 miles away from the intended crop target, meaning the existing buffer zones of 100 feet from schools are insufficient. Children and teachers have the right to a safe environment while in school.

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

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

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

exposure than adults³, and Native Hawaiians are disproportionately impacted by pesticide exposure.⁴ OHA concurs with HAPA, **SB 1304 should be amended to include a provision requiring an independent consultant.** This will ensure the study, and its methodology, are informed by robust reporting data, and that efforts to expand protections for our most vulnerable populations are not undermined by poor execution.

Mahalo nui for your consideration, and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

³ Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawaii's Health and Environment at Risk," Hawaii'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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 10:03 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience
And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

SB 1304 SD1 – RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1304 SD1 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 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) initiated a statewide pesticide drift monitoring project in 2023. Funding for two years from 2023 -2024 was appropriated by the Legislature. CTAHR supports SB 1304 SD1 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



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LATE

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

DATE: February 24, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB1304 SD1, RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT
MONITORING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important 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.
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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February 26, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1304 SD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:03 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwake, 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 SD1 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.



LATE

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Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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.**

SB1304 is an important measure that strengthens our understanding and management of pesticide drift in Hawaii. By allocating funds to the Department of Agriculture for the continuation of the statewide pesticide drift monitoring study, this bill ensures the safety and well-being of both our agricultural workers and neighboring communities. The ongoing collection and analysis of this data are essential to devising informed strategies that mitigate the impacts of pesticide drift, ultimately safeguarding the health of Hawaii's residents and its diverse ecosystems.

Moreover, the insights gained from this study will significantly benefit the state's agricultural sector by helping farmers optimize their pesticide application practices. By identifying areas prone to drift and understanding the conditions that contribute to it, farmers can adapt their methods to minimize unintended exposure, thereby improving the sustainability and reputation of Hawaii's agricultural produce. SB1304 supports a proactive approach that not only protects public health but also fosters a safer and more responsible agricultural industry in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



February 25, 2025

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Support of SB 1304, SD 1 RELATING TO PESTICIDE DRIFT MONITORING
(Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to continue the
statewide pesticide drift monitoring study. [SD1])**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:03 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & 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, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth, housing, and renewable energy, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural, cultural, and agricultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support for SB 1304, SD1.**

SB 1304, SD1. 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 complete a 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 1185, S.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:16:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone with Parkinsons's disease, I am fearful of pesticide drift. We don't know for certain how I got Parkinson's but one likely scenario is that I inhaled paraquat that drifted from the sugar cane field next to my classroom when I taught at Campbell High 1989-1994. Monitoring is the least we can do. Support this bill as a first step.

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:19:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support