

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2025
10:16 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 352, SD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Chairpersons Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 352, SD1 relating to pesticides. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) used and establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools and state and county public parks. The Department offers comments on this bill.

Based on previous bills and requests by stakeholders, as of the 2023 reporting year, the Department has updated its reporting units ([2023-RUP-Use-Report-updated.pdf](#)) to pounds of active ingredients for all RUPs reported.

With the passage of Act 45 and the enactment of buffer zones, the Department found unintended consequences. Utility poles were not able to be treated for mold and mildew during school hours using RUP products. Water treatment plants which used chlorine gas, could not operate wells that were within 100 feet of a school during school hours. Chlorine gas is classified as a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP). Expanding the buffer zones including state and county would include far more utility poles and drinking water wells. Concerningly, there are no allowances for the buffer zones around parks,



unlike the schools. The Department recommends inclusion of reasonable time restrictions, similar to schools if buffer zones are to be expanded.

The Department has initiated some preliminary analysis, the following are the number of agricultural parcels which used RUPs in 2023 and will be directly affected by the increased buffer zones:

- Kaua'i – 6 parcels
- O'ahu – 20 parcels
- Moloka'i - 1 parcel
- Maui – 4 parcels
- Hawai'i – 20 parcels

These parcels have been identified but are based on RUP use from reporting year 2023, this does not include agricultural parcels which may decide to use RUP products. This analysis is also based solely on agricultural RUP use, and not other uses such as ornamental, turf, golf courses, and other RUP use. Should buffer zones be increased, the Department recommends clarity as to what pesticide formulations and application methods are or are not allowable and exclude formulations, such as granules, rodent bait blocks, and certain fumigants that have little to no potential to drift.

Finally, the Department is currently involved in conducting a drift monitoring study, as required by Act 45, SLH 2018. Since that study is intended to determine whether drift is taking place, and how far the impact of drift is occurring within schools, it would be prudent to wait for the results of that study to determine the drift potential in Hawai'i, rather than using distances provided from mainland counterparts with exponentially different geography, ecology, and use patterns. The report is expected to be completed in 2028.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 352 SD 1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 19, 2025

10:16AM

Room 211

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gabbards and Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 352 SD 1, which seeks to make process improvements by requiring the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) used, and by establishing a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticide use around schools and state and county public parks. OHA recognizes that effective pesticide management is essential to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our unique ecosystems.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians,¹ including those related to traditional and customary cultural and subsistence use of natural resources.² SB 351 advances effective stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources by ensuring compliance with existing law regulating application of RUPs, which can have adverse effects on our ecosystems and native species.

The dangers of pesticide exposure and pesticide drift are well documented. 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.³ Children are more sensitive to the effects of pesticides exposure than

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5.

² Haw. Const. Art. XII § 7.

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

adults⁴, and Native Hawaiians have historically been disproportionately impacted by pesticide exposure⁵. Thus, stricter regulations around schools and public spaces like state and county parks are necessary.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs appreciates recent amendments which delayed the implementation date of the one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides to begin on January 1, 2026, rather than January 1, 2025, and made technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purpose of clarity and consistency, and further urges this committee to **PASS SB 352 SD 1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

⁴Bill Freese, Ashley Lukens, Ph.D. and Alexis Anjomshoaa, "Pesticides in Paradise - Hawaii'i'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

⁵Lilian 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

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

Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

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

DATE: February 18, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB352 SD1, RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The act requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides applied. Establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks. (SD1)

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

1. This bill protects our public and most vulnerable community, more specifically our keiki, from the neurological defects and acute health effects pesticides are scientifically associated with. These carcinogenic effects are well documented and studied throughout a variety of pesticides, whether they be general use, restricted use, or experimental.
2. Many communities across our Pae 'Āina are negatively impacted when exposed to pesticide drift. There must be more done to protect our public health and safety and the wellness of our environment. This requirement of consistent reporting and buffer zones are a small step in a more pono direction.

3. There have been studies conducted that show certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile, which is an incredibly hazardous and toxic situation, considering many pesticides are systemic and being utilized in industrial quantities.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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

February 18, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 352, SD 1, RELATING TO PESTICIDES
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:16 a.m.
Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 352, SD 1, Relating to Pesticides. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

It has been twelve years since my community took action to fight locally for protection to create buffer zones. Despite County measures, implied pre-emption left everything with the State. All these years later, I am asking you to please help us protect our children and buffer our schools and parks from the application of already Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs).

On west Kaua'i, we still estimate that there are around 1,500 applications of RUPs each year. This does not include the many applications of General Use Pesticides that are also being used in conjunction with these RUPs, of which this Bill would not apply to.

Buffer zones, as outlined in SB 352, SD 1, would add distance between, and therefore reduce potential exposure and impacts to, our children (while in schools and while playing in our parks) and the spraying of highly toxic RUPs, which drift.

Due to the lack of precautionary principle in the United States, industry lobbying, and scientific meddling, the federal level of the US government has completely failed to protect us or the environment. The State of Hawai'i therefore, plays a key role in the protection of the community and the environment against the impact of pesticides, in the wake of a federal failure to provide protection.

Since the ruling of "implied pre-emption" on the Counties in 2016, this responsibility is not one that County can enact. It is clearly the State of Hawai'i who is responsible for the protection of communities from pesticide use and drift, and I humbly ask you to do so by passing SB 352, SD 1.

This is a basic and common-sense measure. Give our kids a little distance between the use of known highly toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic pesticides that are already registered as Restricted Use Pesticides, because we know they are dangerous and should be “restricted”.

These buffer zones will directly benefit my constituents in west Kaua‘i, where there are a handful of schools in close proximity to experimental GE field trial RUP use. This community on Kaua‘i, is one of the few areas where kids are the most at risk to very harmful drift and are located in close proximity to these heavy mixtures of RUP use. On Kaua‘i, this community is one that needs buffer zones the most.

Please consider the following as you make your decision:

- The science is incessantly clear. A number of epidemiological studies consistently reported increased risks between **pesticide exposures and childhood leukemia, brain cancer, neuroblastoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Wilms' tumor, and Ewing's sarcoma**. An extensive review of these studies was published in 1998.
- At least 15 case-control studies, 4 cohort studies, and 2 ecological studies have been published since this 1998 review, and 15 of these 21 studies reported statistically significant increased risks between either childhood pesticide exposure or parental occupational exposure and childhood cancer. Therefore, one can confidently state that there is at least some **association between pesticide exposure and childhood cancer**.
- Long-term chronic **pesticide exposure while in school, can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage**, among other medical conditions.
- California has already enacted similar legislation to protect farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) found there to be a **significantly increased health risk for children** exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.
- Research is increasingly raising concerns about the **combined effects of exposure to multiple pesticide “mixtures”**. Combination effects are very common but have not been considered in the pesticide regulatory system or thoroughly in scientific study.
- Prenatal studies involving exposure to Organophosphate Pesticides (OP) connect pesticide exposure to **neurological impairment and reduced IQ**. Out of the womb, children with higher levels of OP pesticide breakdown

products in their urine are more likely to have ADHD. Greater urinary levels of OP breakdown products were associated with poorer performance on IQ, tests, processing speed, and verbal comprehension scores. Exposure of children to OP pesticides can also **harm the lungs and exacerbate asthma symptoms.**

- A wealth of data shows that **pesticides drift much further than ½ mile** beyond their target application due to wide, dust migration and volatilization.
- A University of California, Berkely study documented drift up to 1.8 miles from treated fields.
- A University of California, Davis study documented significantly increased rates of autism in children of mothers who lived up to 1-mile from treated fields while pregnant.
- The California Childhood Leukemia study found elevated concentrations of several pesticides in dust of homes up to ¾ of a mile from treated fields.

The data suggests that additional public health and environmental protections are needed to protect our communities. Widespread protections for communities and sensitive environments are needed, but buffer zones around schools and parks are common sense when addressing children's exposure to such toxic RUPs.

While not far enough, a ½ mile buffer zone around schools and parks where our children frequent the most while their brains are developing the most, is a start. It is also backed by science. **One national report on drift-related pesticide poisonings found that in eleven states, 85% of people impacted would have been protected by a 1-mile buffer zone, and 76% of the cases occurred at distances more than ¼ of a mile from the application site.**

Please protect my community and constituents.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 352, SD 1. 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

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 7:40:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, I am Co-chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. We are asking for your support to pass SB352 SD1. The abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure, provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure protections for our communities, children, and the elderly.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health. One part per trillion of these chemicals coming in contact with our skin, lungs, eyes etc. starts cell division. Most medical personnel know cell division as the beginning of a cancer.

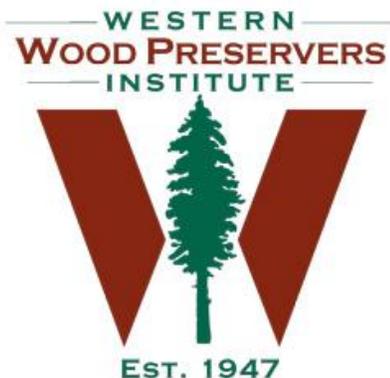
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

We are very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

On behalf of the Green Party we ask that you protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo ,

Susan RobertsEmery
Co Chair GPH
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo



(sent via email to sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 11, 2025

Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St. Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Opposition to SB 352: Relating to Pesticides

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

The Western Wood Preservers Institute (WWPI) appreciates the phone conversations with David Cho on Friday, January 31st and Scott Fuji on February 4th. Mr. Cho and Mr. Fuji understood our concerns regarding SB 352 and suggested we submit additional written comments. WWPI and Treated Wood Council (TWC) are writing to express our strong opposition and proposed amendments to SB 352, which would expand the buffer zone for applying restricted use pesticides to one-half mile around schools and parks, starting January 1, 2026.

WWPI is a non-profit trade association based in Vancouver, Washington. We serve the interests of the preserved wood industry in western North America, including Hawaii. WWPI is a resource that works with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as designers, contractors, and users over the entire preserved wood life cycle. TWC is an international trade association, serving the treated wood industry with more than 560 member organizations, including those with several operations in Hawaii (Hilo, Kapolei, Ookola and Wahiawa).

Preserved wood products are essential to our daily lives. The electricity we use is provided via overhead power lines supported by preserved wood utility poles. Vessels that transport cargo rely on preserved wood pilings for many dock and port functions. Commerce is transported by trains which ride

on rails built on preserved wood ties that create the foundation of the railroad tracks. Vehicles are kept safely on roads with guardrails mounted on preserved wood posts. Farmers and ranchers utilize preserved posts and poles to construct fences for the livestock we consume and to support the agriculture we eat.

Preserved wood products are also required by the Hawaii State Building Code (Section 2303.1.9) for all structural lumber, which includes plywood, posts, beams, rafters, joints, trusses, studs, plates, sills, sleepers, roof and floor sheathing, flooring and headers of new wood frame buildings and additions.

The application of wood preservative pesticides are unique as they are applied within a sealed steel cylinder or inside an enclosed building at secure facilities by trained technicians. There is no atmospheric exposure caused by the application of wood preservative pesticides. (Please see the photograph on the last page.) The US Environmental Protection Agency requires strict adherence to the preservative pesticide label, which protects the environment, human health, and pollinators.

The declaration in Section 1 states, “United States Environmental Protection Agency has demonstrated that pesticides sprayed on agricultural fields can drift off site, causing adverse health effects. Drift can occur through spray, mist, fumes, or odor during application, or through volatilization of previously treated areas.” That language implies the bill author’s concern relates to agricultural pesticide applications, which is completely different from the application of a wood preservative.

Currently the legislature is considering SB 12 (introduced by Senator Chang, Inouye, and McKelvey on January 8th) which would classify neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides. SB 12 excludes wood preservative pesticides from being classified as a restricted use pesticide because our unique application does not result in atmospheric exposure.

Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 149A-28 currently provides an exemption for restricted use pesticides used in whole structure fumigation within 100 feet from schools and parks. SB 352 amends Section 149A-28 by extending the 100-foot buffer to one-half mile around schools and state or county public parks. Since the application of wood preservative pesticides do not drift, we respectfully request an exempt from the half-mile buffer around schools and parks. Our proposed amendments are shown in red below:

SECTION 3. Section 149A-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Buffer zones. Beginning January 1, 2026, no person shall apply a restricted use pesticide on or within one-half mile of a school property during normal school hours or a state or county public park; provided that this section shall not apply to whole structure fumigation and the application of a wood preservative pesticide; provided further that if this section is determined to conflict with any pesticide application information listed on the pesticide label, the more restrictive provision shall apply."

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns and propose an amendment to SB 352. Please contact our Director of Government Relations, Ryan Pessah at ryan@wwpi.org or (619) 889-1666 to discuss our comments in more detail or if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Butch Bernhardt

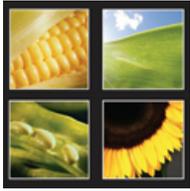
Butch Bernhardt
Executive Director
Western Wood Preservers Institute

Jeffrey T. Miller

Jeffrey T. Miller
President & Executive Director
Treated Wood Council

cc: Senator Mike Gabbard (sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov)
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means





HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SB352 SD1 – In Opposition
Relating to Pesticides
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways & Means

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Time: 10:16 AM
Place: Conference Room 211

Aloha Chairs Rhoads, Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition to SB352 SD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides used and establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks.

HCIA's opposition is to the provisions of the bill related to the half mile buffer zone. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already regulates the use of pesticides to protect the environment, applicators, and community. Based on scientific research and data, pesticide labels will require applicators to use buffers when necessary. The half mile buffer zone proposed in this bill is not based on science.

The negative impacts of a half mile buffer zone would be significant for local agriculture. It would reduce a farmer's ability to maximize their property to grow food. For smaller farms, this could represent a sizable portion of their land. Proposals like half mile buffer zones just create unnecessary additional hardship and disincentives to enter into or grow Hawaii's agriculture industry.

Act 45 already put into law a 100-foot buffer and this is workable for farmers. We ask the committee to defer a bill that only makes conditions more difficult for our local agriculture producers, especially when scientific data does not support the proposal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our testimony in opposition.

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.



Senate Committees on Judiciary & Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) **Strongly Supports**: SB352 SD1

Wednesday, February 19th 2024 10:16 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB352 SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides used. Establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools and state and county public parks.

The buffer zone proposed in SB352 SD1 will provide a buffer between children in school and the use of highly toxic Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) that is supported by peer-reviewed epidemiological research. This measure aims to provide a small layer of protection for Hawai'i's children from the potential impacts of highly toxic RUPs drifting through their schools by increasing RUP buffer zones schools from 100 feet to 1/2 mile during school hours and around parks where our keiki recreate.

Despite mounting evidence of the dangers even more common general use pesticides, such as RoundUp/Glyphosate, have on children's health¹; **this measure would not impact any general use pesticide application or provide buffers for use**. This measure only applies to the State listed class of highly hazardous toxic pesticides that are already restricted in Hawai'i (RUPs).

Background

HAPA was founded in response to community members living near large agrochemical fields asking for the right to know what pesticides are being used adjacent to their homes, schools, waterways and other sensitive areas. After over a decade-long effort to provide residents with clear information on what they may be exposed to, the implementation of Act 45 still has not provided communities with that information.

We applaud the legislature and the Ige Administration for taking the important first step of establishing 100 foot RUP buffer zones around schools during school hours in 2018 by passing Act 45 and starting to require self reporting along with the ban on Chlorpyrifos. However, an abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to

¹ Evsliin, Lee MD (2021) Breakfast at Monsanto's



pesticide exposure² provide a sound argument for extending these buffer zones to ensure even greater protections for Hawaii's children as well as school teachers and staff.

It is worth noting that although California has enacted similar legislation requiring ¼ mile pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas had originally advocated for 1 mile buffer zones due to the abundance of research documenting pesticide drift and related health impacts up to a mile or further from the fields where they were applied. If Hawai'i enacts ½ mile buffer zones we will lead the nation on RUP buffers protecting our children in schools.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.³

We are very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure at school⁴, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions. Public and scientific research is increasingly raising concerns about the combined effects of pesticide "cocktails," or exposure to mixtures. One recent Nebraska based study has observed positive associations between agrichemical mixtures and overall cancer, brain and CNS cancers, and leukemia among children. This study found about a 10% increase in pesticide, mixtures was associated with a 23%–36% increase in these cancer rates.⁵ In the last six years, pesticide companies submitted over 140 patents containing multiple active ingredients, 96 of which "had at least one ... application that claimed or demonstrated synergy between the active ingredients in the product, a total of 69 percent."⁶ Combination effects are the norm not the exception, yet have not been considered in the pesticide regulatory system.

Findings from 2019 RUP Usage Data

2019 marked the first year RUP reporting data became publicly available. Analysis of this data has revealed that specific communities in Hawai'i are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides in close proximity to schools.⁷ Specific communities in Hawai'i are facing large combinations of RUP usage, and likely chronic exposures from frequent applications.

The data suggests that additional public health and environmental protections are needed to protect our communities. Wide spread protections for communities and sensitive environments

² <https://www.panna.org/resources/kids-frontline/>

³ American Academy of Pediatrics, Pesticide Exposure in Children, December 2012, vol. 130, issue 6.

⁴ Ames, Richard G. "Pesticide Impacts on Communities and Schools." *International Journal of Toxicology* 21, no. 5 (October 2002): 397–402. doi:10.1080/10915810290096621.

⁵ <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2024GH001236>

⁶ Donley, N. "Toxic Concoctions: How the EPA ignores the dangers of pesticide cocktails." *Center for Biological Diversity*, July 2016: 3-4.

⁷ Jedra, Christina CivilBeat "The Scope Of Heavy Pesticide Use On Oahu Is Finally In The Public Domain" <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/02/the-scope-of-heavy-pesticide-use-on-oahu-is-finally-in-the-public-domain/>



are needed, but buffer zones around schools and parks are common sense when addressing children's exposure to such toxic RUPs.

The first round of data in 2019 shows particularly concerning heavy use of fumigants, 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D or trade name Telone) and Metam Sodium. Data suggests approximately 200,000 lbs of these active ingredients are being applied to north central O'ahu, annually. These fumigants are known to be carcinogenic and highly prone to drift and cause respiratory illness. In 2020, 1,3-D was found in the air at high levels that significantly increase cancer risk up to seven and a half miles away from the closest known application sites.⁸ These fumigants are capable of increasing cancer risk for adjacent communities.⁹ They are used as fumigants to sterilize the soil, killing beneficial organisms and the life of the soil.

100 foot buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research, which widely demonstrates pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts.¹⁰

Data obtained in 2019 was mapped (via TMK parcel) and the reporting data suggests that these buffer zones will only apply to a handful of rural communities, and schools / parks throughout Hawai'i. These areas are west side Kaua'i (Kekaha to 'Ele'ele), Central O'ahu, Central Mokoka'i, Makawao and a handful of other schools upon very close inspection. These few areas are where kids are the most at risk in close proximity to RUP use and need buffers the most.

The 2019 data shows approximately 99% of all the RUP use reported in all of Hawai'i for agriculture, landscape, conservation etc was reportedly used by only 10 entities (5 of which grow food) and 97% of all the use reported in Hawai'i was only 5 entities. This data clearly shows that farmers are not widely using RUPs and therefore not many areas throughout Hawai'i would see buffers generated by this measure. This measure seeks to protect our most vulnerable children from exposure to known highly hazardous toxic pesticides.

Childhood Cancer Threat

Children who live in areas of high agricultural activity in the US from birth to age 15 experience a significantly increased risk of childhood cancers.¹¹ A 2007 meta-analysis of studies linking pesticide exposure concluded:

A number of epidemiological studies consistently reported increased risks between pesticide exposures and childhood leukemia, brain cancer, neuroblastoma,

⁸ Nathan Donley and Sarah Aird, October 2021, OP ED: California Needs to quit ignoring the public health and climate cost of pesticides

⁹ Sharon Lerner, (2021) The Intercept: Environmental Group Charges EPA with Ignoring Evidence of Cancer

¹⁰ EWG: Schools Near Pesticide Spray Zones Could Lose Health Protections, Nov 2 2022

¹¹ Carozza L et al. "Risk of Childhood Cancers Associated with Residence in Agriculturally Intensive Areas in the US." Environmental Health Perspectives. Jan 2008; 116(4): 559-565.



non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Wilms' tumor, and Ewing's sarcoma. An extensive review of these studies was published in 1998 (Zahm & Ward, 1998 Zahm, S. H. and Ward, M. H. 1998. Pesticides and childhood cancer. *Environ. Health. Perspect*, 106(suppl. 3): 893–908.). Fifteen case-control studies, 4 cohort studies, and 2 ecological studies have been published since this review, and 15 of these 21 studies reported statistically significant increased risks between either childhood pesticide exposure or parental occupational exposure and childhood cancer. Therefore, one can confidently state that there is at least some association between pesticide exposure and childhood cancer.¹²

Research continues to confirm the pesticide-cancer link with a 2016 Spanish population-based case-control study finding: “[O]ur result points to the same conclusion as many previous studies and suggests that living in the proximity of cultivated land could be associated with many types of cancer in children.”¹³

Harm to Children's Brains

The most recent study of the UC Berkeley research team, CHAMACOS, indicates that combined organophosphate (OP) applications near pregnant women have a negative effect on the IQ of their children, where some individual OPs may not. Every 522 pounds of OPs applied within a 1 kilometer (0.62 mile) radius of a pregnant Salinas Valley woman's home correlated with a 2 point drop in her children's IQ compared to a control group.¹⁴ Recent evidence also suggests that social adversity exacerbates the adverse effects of prenatal OP exposure on IQ.¹⁵

The science connecting pesticide exposure to neurological impairment is not limited to prenatal studies. Out of the womb, children with higher levels of OP pesticide breakdown products in their urine are more likely to have ADHD.^{16 17}

A study of pre- and postnatal pesticide exposure and neurodevelopmental impairment, concluded that “postnatal and, to a lesser extent, prenatal exposure to pesticides, are negatively associated with children's neuropsychological development, regardless of the way of measuring exposure.” In the same study, greater urinary levels of OP breakdown products were associated with poorer performance on IQ and verbal comprehension tests. Increased agricultural acreage

¹² Infante-Rivard C and Weichenthal S. “Pesticides and Childhood Cancer: An Update of Zahm and Ward's 1998 Review.” *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part B* Vol. 10 , Iss. 1-2,2007.

¹³ Gómez Barroso et al. “Agricultural crop exposure and risk of childhood cancer: new findings from a case–control study in Spain.” *Int J Health Geogr* (2016) 15:18.

¹⁴ Gunier RB et al. “Prenatal Residential Proximity to Agricultural Pesticide Use and IQ in 7-Year-Old Children.” *Environ Health Perspect* June 2016

¹⁵ Stein LJ et al. “Early childhood adversity potentiates the adverse association between prenatal organophosphate pesticide exposure and child IQ: the CHAMACOS cohort.” Accepted manuscript in *Neurotoxicology* (2016). doi: 10.1016/j.neuro.2016.07.010.

¹⁶ Bouchard M et al. “ADHD and urinary metabolites of organophosphate pesticides.” *Pediatrics* 2010 125(6): 1270-1277.

¹⁷ Kuehn B. “Increased Risk of ADHD Associated with Early Exposure to Pesticides, PCBs.” *JAMA* July 2010, 304(1):27-28.



around the child's residence postnatally was used as a proxy for cumulative exposure to pesticides— and was found to be associated with decreased IQ, processing speed, and verbal comprehension scores.¹⁸

Epidemiological studies have mainly linked prenatal pesticide exposure to effects on children's neurodevelopment, but we also know that school-age children's brains are still developing. It should be noted that there is scant data on postnatal exposures of children to pesticides, due in part to research challenges that are separate from our concerns.

Harm to Children's Lungs

Exposure of children to OP pesticides can also exacerbate asthma symptoms. A UC Berkeley CHAMACOS Study found that higher levels of OP metabolites in urine were associated with respiratory symptoms and coughing at 5 and 7 years of age.¹⁹

A wealth of data shows that pesticides drift much further than ½ mile beyond their target application due to wide, dust migration and volatilization.

For example, one national report²⁰ on drift-related pesticide poisonings found that in eleven states, 85 percent of people impacted would have been protected by a one-mile buffer zone, and 76 percent of the cases occurred at distances more than one-quarter mile from the application site.

A UC Berkeley CHAMACOS study²¹ documented chlorpyrifos, (now banned in Hawaii, California and New York) in homes up to 1.8 miles from treated fields. Another UC Davis MIND Institute²² study documented significantly increased rates of autism in children of mothers who lived up to one mile from treated fields during pregnancy. The California Childhood Leukemia study²³ found elevated concentrations of several pesticides in dust of homes up to three-quarters of a mile from treated fields.

¹⁸ B. González-Alzaga et al. "Pre- and postnatal exposures to pesticides and neurodevelopmental effects in children living in agricultural communities from South-Eastern Spain." *Environment International* 85 (2015) 229–237

¹⁹ Raanan R et al. "Early life Exposure to OP pesticides and pediatric respiratory symptoms in the CHAMACOS Cohort." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 123:2 179-182. 2015.

²⁰ Soo-Jeong Lee et al. "Acute Pesticide Illnesses Associated with Off-Target Pesticide Drift from Agricultural Applications: 11 States, 1998–2006" *Environmental Health Perspectives* [2011]

²¹ Harney et al. "Pesticides in Dust from Homes in an Agricultural Area" American Chemical Society, Oct 2006

²² Shelton et al. "Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Prenatal Residential Proximity to Agricultural Pesticides: The CHARGE Study" *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Oct. 2014

²³ Gunier et al. "Determinants of Agricultural Pesticide Concentrations in Carpet Dust" *Environmental Health Perspectives*, July 2011



Importance of Consistent Units of Measurement

SB352 also importantly requires the Department of Agriculture to report out RUP usage in consistent units of measurement. The reporting for RUP (Restricted Use Pesticide) use data in Hawai'i, has only recently started to become available, as of 2019. Because of poor reporting, it has taken considerable effort to make sense of the data, do the calculations, and format them into consistent metrics. We are grateful that the Department of Agriculture appears to now be converting all reporting data into pounds.

HAPA requests that DoA's data in pounds be made available to the public by TMK not only summarized by island or county.

Conclusion

Despite an abundance of evidence documenting the migration of pesticides well beyond the ½ mile buffer zones proposed in SB352 SD1 we recognize that ½ mile still will provide a significant improvement on the current 100 feet.

The threats are real and well established and then most at risk are our children in a handful of specific communities throughout Hawai'i. Please don't wait any longer to protect our children in schools from pesticide drift.

Please support SB352 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

Hawaii Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Hawaii Chapter

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The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics In support of SB352 (Buffer Zones)

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly supports SB352 regarding buffer zones around schools and other places where children congregate. In 2012, the National AAP published a message heard around the world. They published a Policy Statement on Pesticides and Children. They laid out in stark terms the danger of chronic low-level pesticide exposure to the unborn, infants, and children. This information was a game changer for pediatricians. We had been taught about the danger of poisoning by drinking or being sprayed. Still, many of us had not fully realized that chronic low-level exposure could lead to subtle diseases such as developmental delays or life-threatening conditions such as cancer. It has also led to legislative bodies realizing that it is their responsibility to protect our children and to protect our future.

In Hawaii, schoolchildren can be in classrooms 100 feet from fields sprayed with multiple pesticides. These classrooms often have open windows designed to take advantage of our climate and trade winds. Our children must be in these rooms for many hours a week by law. Our teachers are also there, and many of them (as well as some of our students) may be pregnant. The developing fetus is particularly vulnerable to harm from pesticide exposure, even very low-dose exposure.

In 2017, [A paper was published](#) entitled, “Will buffer zones around schools...be adequate to protect children from the potential adverse effects of pesticide exposure?”¹ It lists in great detail the multiple studies showing the health risks stemming from proximity to agricultural spraying. The conclusion of the paper is that multiple efforts must be made to limit pesticide exposure and that buffer zones around schools and daycares are a vital step in the process of protection. California implemented buffer zones around schools and daycares in 2017. It is time for Hawaii to also implement meaningful buffer zones around schools and places where children congregate.

Mahalo for considering our testimony.

Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

¹Gunier RB, Bradman A, Harley KG, Eskenazi B (2017) Will buffer zones around schools in agricultural areas be adequate to protect children from the potential adverse effects of pesticide exposure? PLoS Biol 15(12): e2004741.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.20047>



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February 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON SB 352, SD1
RELATING TO PESTICIDES**

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:16 AM

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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 respectfully opposes SB 352, SD1, which would randomly increase the school buffer zone to prohibit certain pesticides to over twenty-five times further than what the law is now. It also extends the buffer zone to include areas within half a mile of state and county public parks, any time of day or night.

As active community members, our primary focus is on the safety and health of our families, our employees, and our communities as we produce the food and other products that residents and visitors need and enjoy. **We support evidence-based pesticide laws and regulations, along with appropriate enforcement and penalties for violations. This bill is not based on facts and should not be passed.**

Health Study does not indicate need for expanded buffer zones

A study of over 89,000 farmers who use pesticides, and their spouses is relevant to this discussion since the health of the pesticide users and spouses would likely indicate how pesticides may affect disease risk. The Agricultural Health Study (a collaborative effort of the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) is the largest, longest (over 25 years) and most referenced study of cancer and other health outcomes of farmers who use pesticides.

A key finding is that farmers have lower rates of disease compared to the rest of the population.

Why does this bill target agriculture?

SB 352, SD1 is especially troubling because it targets agriculture – making farmers look bad – while failing to consider some important facts.

- There have been no recent reported incidents of pesticide issues around schools that would justify expansion of the current restrictions.
- The bill focuses on farming operations' use of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) but ignores the evidence about pesticide-related incidents.

Here's what the data shows: of all documented pesticide-related incidents at schools in Hawai'i, **none** were caused by the farming operations targeted in this bill. Of all poisoning incidents involving children in Hawai'i, the vast majority happen inside a home, not because of a nearby farming operation. More than a dozen reports have studied pesticide residue in air and water samples across the islands. They show no indication that Hawai'i's farmers are posing any significant risk to the environment.

Who uses RUPs?

In fact, the combined use of RUPs by farms in Hawai'i is a fraction of that used by non-farmers. The large majority of restricted use pesticides sold in Hawai'i is used by public agencies and non-agricultural businesses to protect public health, and to protect private residences, commercial facilities and other property from termites. However, for some unexplained reason, the current restrictions and those of this bill target agriculture.

Existing Laws Already Address Drift:

Current regulations mandate that pesticide users prevent drift, with violations enforceable under State and federal law. The HDOA actively enforces these regulations and investigates any suspected drift violations.

- Drift prevention is already the applicator's responsibility, regardless of the distance or pesticide type.
- Federal and state regulations establish an Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ), which prohibits applicators from applying pesticides in areas where people are present. The AEZ distance depends on the application type and is set at either 25 or 100 feet. This ensures public safety without unnecessarily burdening agricultural operations.

Pesticides are necessary tools

In Hawai'i, a primary State goal is to become more self-sufficient, especially with regard to food production. However, this goal is proving difficult to achieve because of our year-long perfect climate for pests and disease, and the continuous influx of near impossible-to-control noxious and invasive species that make farming here a constant battle. Pesticides are among the necessary tools that farmers use to minimize damage and loss of their crops.

No justification for expanding the buffer zone

Expanding the buffer zone to one-half mile unfairly penalizes farmers, reduces usable agricultural land, and exacerbates food insecurity in Hawai'i. Any amendments to pesticide regulations should prioritize practicality, fairness, and science-based decision-making while maintaining accountability and transparency.

We ask our leaders across the state to please set aside unjustified legislation that discourages farming, and instead, support laws and policies that will strengthen agriculture's foundation in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers who look forward to providing more of Hawai'i's agricultural needs.

SUGARLAND FARMS, INC.
PO BOX 27
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SB352sd1, Relating to Pesticides
Sen JDC/WAM Decision Making Hearing – 10:16 AM
Wednesday, February 19, 2024

Testimony By: Jonathan Jefts

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Sen JDC/WAM Committees:

I am Jonathan Jefts, manager of Sugarland Farms, Inc. Our family farms on Oahu and Molokai grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. These crops include bananas, green bell peppers, cabbages, Chinese cabbages, cucumbers, and several varieties of tomatoes and watermelons.

We respectfully oppose SB352sd1, which seeks to arbitrarily impose a half-mile school buffer zone on schools and state and county public parks.

As a commercial agricultural business, we use the tools of Integrated Pest Management, general and restricted use pesticides that include organic pesticides when necessary to grow produce that is competitive with imported mainland or international produce.

We use pesticides registered by the US EPA, which have been vetted for safety and ensure the protection of communities, farm workers and sensitive populations. We follow federal and state requirements for application and reporting.

Expanding the buffer zone from 100 feet to 2,640 feet (half a mile) can lead to the taking of active agricultural production lands and increase local food insecurity. In other words, the loss of responsible and legally approved general and restricted use pesticides due to buffer zones and the prohibition of pesticide application may make Hawaii-grown produce non-competitive with imported mainland and international produce.

We suggest that instead of increasing the distance of buffer zones near schools, consideration should be given to pesticide applications made when schools are not in session or activities not taking place at the school when wind conditions are low and can be combined with hooded-equipment sprayers, berms and vegetative barriers to minimize light and noise. We have used these types of practices near residential areas without any complaints.

Bad actors, those not in compliance with pesticide applications, should be caught, face the consequences, and have the opportunity to be educated on appropriate pesticide applications. Adverse policies and laws should not restrict the majority of farmers who comply. Sufficient resources for DOA inspectors with the flexibility to conduct site visits in the evening, on weekends, and on holidays during daytime hours are needed because farmers are working those hours.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Chevelle Davis, MPH - Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Subject: Measure S.B. No. 352 S.D. 1 – Relating to Pesticides

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 10:16 AM, Conference Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and members of the committees:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of S.B. No. 352 S.D. 1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its public summaries of restricted use pesticide (RUP) applications and establishes a one-half-mile buffer zone around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks. ***Since this bill mandates consistency in measurement units for reporting, it does not require an appropriation.***

There is abundant scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure, making a compelling case for establishing meaningful buffer zones to protect our keiki, kūpuna, and other vulnerable populations. Analysis of RUP data in Hawai'i has shown that many communities remain heavily exposed to pesticides known to drift significant distances. A mere 100-foot buffer zone does not align with scientific evidence, as some pesticides can drift over a mile and cause serious health impacts.

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure due to their developing bodies, higher respiratory rates, and increased hand-to-mouth behaviors. Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has found that pesticide exposure in children significantly increases the risk of developing cancer, neurological disorders, respiratory issues, and other long-term health complications. We must act decisively to reduce their exposure and protect their well-being.

California has enacted similar regulations establishing pesticide buffer zones around schools and agricultural areas, all while maintaining one of the strongest agricultural economies in the nation. Hawai'i can follow suit by balancing local food production goals with the urgent need to shield our most vulnerable populations from harmful pesticide drift.

It is deeply concerning that our keiki, while at school or playing in our parks, are at risk of unintended pesticide exposure. The potential for lifelong health consequences necessitates immediate legislative action. By passing S.B. No. 352 S.D. 1, we can take a crucial step toward ensuring the health and safety of our keiki and communities.

We urge you to **support S.B.352 No. S.D. 1** to protect our keiki and promote a healthier future for all residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** on this important measure.



Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko
Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Tanya Aynessazian
Principal Contractor

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
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P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:16 AM Conference Room 211

RE: **SB352 SD1** Restricted Use Pesticides - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 450 small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

As small business owners who believe we can strengthen Hawaii's economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment, we are submitting testimony in strong support of SB352, which seeks to implement greater oversight and transparency regarding the use of restricted use pesticides (RUPs). This bill is a critical step toward protecting public health, preserving Hawaii's natural environment and ensuring accountability in pesticide application.

Protecting Public Health

The widespread use of RUPs has raised serious concerns about their impact on human health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, kūpuna, and agricultural workers. Studies have linked prolonged pesticide exposure to respiratory issues, developmental disorders, and cancer. SB352 promotes safer communities by enforcing stronger regulations and requiring public reporting of RUP usage, allowing residents to make informed decisions about their health and environment.

Safeguarding Hawai'i's Ecosystem

Hawai'i's unique biodiversity is at severe risk from pesticide contamination. Runoff from RUPs has been documented in watersheds, drinking water sources, and nearshore ecosystems, threatening native species, coral reefs, and the broader environment. Implementing stricter guidelines and monitoring systems will help mitigate the harmful effects of these chemicals, ensuring that our natural resources remain protected for future generations.



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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LATE

February 18, 2025

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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Strong Opposition to SB 352. SD1 RELATING TO PESTICIDES (Requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides applied. Establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks. [SD1].)

**Wednesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:16 a.m.
State Capitol, 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 and housing, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural, cultural, and agricultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF members have been strong supporters of agriculture, have led the state in agricultural lands and production over the past decade, and have partnered with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and its Neighbor Island chapters (Hawaii Farm Bureau) 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 safety and security.

LURF appreciates that this bill may be well-intended, however, under the circumstances, we must respectfully state our **strong opposition to the current version of SB 352, SD1**, which proposes an unnecessary one-half mile buffer zone.

SB 352. This measure would require the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides applied; and establish a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools during normal school hours and state and county public parks.

LURF's Position. LURF **strongly opposes the current version of SB 352, SD1**, based upon, among other things:

- **The proposed on-half mile buffer zone is arbitrary, and not based on facts, or scientific research and data (“science”).**
- Based on science, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already regulates the use of pesticides to protect the environment, applicators, and community. **The EPA does not require half-mile buffer zones.**
- Also, based on science, **pesticide manufacturers and labels already require applicators to use buffers when necessary.** We understand that the proposed half-mile buffer zone is not required by any manufacturers or labels.
- **Act 45 (2018) already imposes 100-foot buffer zones around school properties.** We believe that the current buffer zone is working for the community and farmers.
- Prior DOA data confirmed that **68% of the actual sales of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP) in Hawaii are to homeowners and other users** - NOT to commercial agricultural producers.
- **According to a prior DOA study, homeowners (not commercial agricultural production) are actually responsible for the majority of pesticide incidents and evacuations relating to Hawaii’s schools, and that none were due to the actions of commercial agricultural operations.**
- This bill would have **the unintended negative consequences of severely limiting the property area for agricultural operations** by *bonafide* farmers, new farmers, small family farms and other groups engaged in agricultural production; and
- This measure is **counter-productive to the State Plan’s agricultural goals relating to agricultural sustainability**, including, but not limited to, promoting agricultural viability, diversified agriculture and the IAL law.

For the above reasons, LURF **opposes SB 352, SD1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration in **deferring this measure and holding it in these Committees.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in opposition** to this matter.

February 18, 2025

To: Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Judiciary and the Ways and Means Senate Committees:

Subject: **SB 352 SD1**, Relating to Pesticides

Aloha,

SB352 SD1 will require the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides used. Establishes a one-half-mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools and state and county public parks.

I am writing to express my strong **support for SB352**, a piece of legislation designed to protect the health of our children and communities. The following points underscore the significance of this measure:

1. Research has shown that the chemicals found in pesticides can pose significant health risks, impacting not only current populations but also future generations. There is an increasing concern regarding the link between pesticide exposure and various health issues, notably higher rates of breast cancer. This legislation is designed to provide crucial protection for particularly vulnerable groups, such as children (Keiki) and individuals with unique physiological and neurodiverse characteristics, who may be more sensitive to these toxic substances and their harmful effects.

Children with a smaller size and body mass index tend to consume relatively more food, water, and air, making them more susceptible to toxins. Additionally, their developing biological systems limit their ability to detoxify chemicals effectively. It is essential to implement protective measures to safeguard these at-risk populations. Promoting awareness about the dangers of pesticides and advocating for safer alternatives can help create healthier environments for everyone, ensuring both current and future generations can thrive in a safer and healthier world.

2. Pesticide drift is a significant issue that affects many communities, posing risks to public health and environmental integrity. As proposed in this legislation, establishing clear regulations and guidelines is essential for addressing these challenges and safeguarding community well-being.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



3. Research indicates that certain pesticides can drift over distances exceeding a mile, leading to adverse health outcomes. Implementing a half-mile buffer zone surrounding schools and public parks is a proactive measure to reduce pesticide exposure for children. Such a buffer zone will provide essential protection for these vulnerable populations.

4. It is essential that the Department of Agriculture adopts consistent units of measurement in public summaries regarding the usage of restricted-use pesticides. This measure will enhance transparency and facilitate a better public understanding of pesticide application in their communities.

I urge policymakers to support SB352 SD1 to ensure a healthier and safer future for our children and communities. Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

Mahalo,
Jeanette Burdick & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



The Molokai Farm Bureau serves as Molokai's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community. We are an arm of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, organized in 1948 and comprised of 1800 farm families statewide.

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY, and WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES

February 19, 2025, 10:16am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

SB352-SD1 - OPPOSE

February 19, 2025

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwake and Gabbard, and Respected Committee Members,

SB352: Requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides used. Establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools and state and county public parks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB352. For the following reasons, the Molokai Farm Bureau respectfully **OPPOSES SB352-SD1**:

- **Many Uses of RUPs**

Here in Hawaii, we recognize the need for RUPs to control pests, rodents, mold and mildew, bacteria, invasive plants and insect species – problems that live in and around our homes, gardens, restaurants, food hubs, drinking water sources, hospitals, pet shelters, schools, and parks. In other words, everywhere. **We have a need to control those ever-multiplying pests that our tropical climate supports.**

Based on science we understand and are satisfied with fumigating our homes, using herbicides to push back plant overgrowth or weed control in our landscapes, controlling or removing offensive or dangerous mold, mildew and bacteria in our homes, drinking water or laundry – very personal uses; in fact, **we look to these RUP uses as an accepted and safe way to live.**

- **Majority of RUP Users**

HDoA's collection of data shows both the majority of RUP sales and use in Hawaii are *not from farmers* but from public agencies, and non-agricultural businesses used to protect things like public health or private and commercial properties from termites, and other uses that are also important. **What is clear is that the combined use of RUPs by Hawaii farms are a fraction of what is used by non-farmers.**

The concern Molokai Farm Bureau has, is what this bill attempts to do – which is to differentiate and target agriculture. It suggests *not* to accept RUPs applied beyond, or outside of those personal and daily RUP uses we've normalized and accepted. **Ironically there would be strong public outcry if SB352-SD1 were to include the majority of RUP users in this bill.**

As farmers we understand that many of the RUPs we use are the same products you use at home. But in addition (and as the law mandates), in a commercial context we are required to be certified applicators, licensed and qualified to handle and safely use those RUPs. **As certified applicators we have been educated and tested, and that license holds us accountable by law.**

- **Intended Protections**

We understand the concerns regarding health impacts of pesticide drift on children, and wholeheartedly support protecting our keiki. Many Hawaii farms are generational in nature. For many of us, our hope is to pass on our passions and love of the land, to our keiki. **As parents, we stand with you, not against you.**

But sadly in Hawaii – of all the pesticide related school incidents, none were caused by farming operations targeted in this bill – and **the vast majority of all child poisoning incidents happen inside the home, not from a nearby farm.**

And worth pointing out, ironically, **because this bill only selectively includes agriculture, it still does not stop RUPs from being applied by those majority RUP uses, within and/or on the very areas this bill claims to protect.**

Setting arbitrary protections are not effective, there is no data to prove its need, or its efficacy.

- **Safeguards Based on Science**

Licensed certified applicators are legally responsible to prevent drift, and to ensure general safety there are federal and state regulations that prohibit the application of RUPs where people are present. Pesticide drift violations are actively enforced, and any suspected violations are investigated by HDoA.

We support the current rules and regulations that are in place.

As farmers we acknowledge there is a need for more science-based education on the practices and safe use of RUPs. **Food and energy self-sufficiency is part of our state's goals, and RUPs will be a necessary tool to meet those goals.**

The existing buffer zones have resulted in no documented drift incidents, there is no good reason to expand them for zero safety benefit, at the cost of penalizing agriculture.

Respectfully, the Molokai Farm Bureau **OPPOSES SB352-SD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Submitted with Aloha,

Nate Oswald

Nathaniel (Nate) Oswald
President, Molokai Farm Bureau

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 7:00:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

Date: February 15, 2025

Subject: ½ Mile Pesticide Buffer Zones Are Needed Near Schools and Day Care Centers; Support for SB352

From: J. Milton Clark, Ph.D.
Former Senior Health and Science Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, Chicago
Former Associate Professor of Environmental and
Occupational Health Sciences
University of Illinois School of Public Health
clarkenviro.com

I am in strong support of SB 352. The State of Hawaii, following the lead of California, must expand pesticide buffer zones from the current scientifically indefensible 100 feet. By way of background, I served as a pro bono expert to the Joint Fact Finding on Pesticide Use and GMOs in Kauai. While with U.S. EPA and the University of Illinois School of Public Health, I conducted and published over one hundred human health risk assessments dealing with exposure to pesticides and toxic chemicals. These risk assessments were the basis for cleaning up numerous sites which protected thousands of people (clarkenviro.com).

To prevent autism and other neurological impacts to children the use of restricted pesticides in Hawaii needs to be prohibited within ½ mile of schools and day care centers. *As documented below, leading academic institutions have published peer reviewed research, some funded by EPA, that clearly demonstrates that a ½ mile buffer zone is required to provide adequate health protection for children.*

Several studies have shown that proximity to agricultural fields at distances up to 0.9 mile results in maternal exposure to pesticides that is associated with neurological deficits in children, including autism, autism spectrum disorders, and cognitive impairments (1-6, 31-36). *The science is especially strong that children living within ½ mile of agricultural fields show neurological impacts.* A University of California Berkeley study, partially funded by U.S. EPA, demonstrated that proximity to agricultural fields was associated with a reduction in child IQ and verbal comprehension at distances up to 0.6 mile (31,32,34,36). This science is based upon a statistical relationship between the amounts of pesticides in maternal umbilical cord blood or urine and the severity of adverse neurological health effects in their children.

Hawaii has a very limited data base on pesticide health incidents as compared to California and other much larger states. In 2018, California passed regulations to restrict the application of *all* agriculturally applied pesticides within ¼ mile of schools and day care centers during the hours of 6 am to 6 pm and when schools are open. While an important step forward, California's regulation is not fully protective. California's decision was primarily based on pesticide incidences of

airborne drift causing *acute* health effects, not *chronic* health effects that have been clearly documented at distances greater than ¼ mile.

Agricultural Pesticide Drift Occurs at Distances of Nearly a Mile

While EPA defines spray drift as pesticides that are carried off target as mists, droplets or powders, it been well documented that pesticides in agricultural soils and dusts are transported from fields at distances greater than ¼ mile, including as documented (by photographs) in numerous homes in Waimea, Hawaii (7,8,9,34-37). Pesticides are also transported by their volatilization from soils. Homes within 0.8 mile of agricultural fields have higher concentrations of pesticides than homes at greater distances (34).

An analysis of several household pesticide dust studies revealed detectable residues of chlorpyrifos and other pesticides at distances up to 0.7 mile from fields and a statistically significant increase in pesticide levels within homes based upon proximity to agricultural fields (35). As previously discussed, adverse health effects have been reported in children at distances up to 0.9 mile.

California's ¼ Mile Regulation

Lee et al., evaluated 2,945 acute cases of pesticide illnesses associated with 643 drift events in eleven states (37). California used the work of Lee to develop regulations for schools and day care centers (38). 1,565 (53%) of the acute cases were non-occupational and approximately 400 cases involved were children. Drift was defined as “pesticide exposures outside there intended area of application by: (1) spray, mist, fumes, or odor during application; (2) volatilization, odor from a previously treated field, or migration of contaminated dust; and (3) residue left by offsite movement. *Soil fumigation was responsible for the largest number of cases (738) with 606 (82%) occurring greater than 0.25 miles from the application site.* In 2012 EPA implemented new regulations for soil fumigants (size of field, distance, and 36 hour time for re-entry) that may reduce cases of acute exposure.

California's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) considered (1) pesticide drift episodes causing *acute* cases near schools (2) greater neurological sensitivity of children to pesticides (3) pesticide air monitoring data to implement the ¼ mile pesticide application restriction (between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm or when schools are in session) (38). The basis for passing the regulations are as follows:

- From 2005-2014, California documented 34 cases of pesticide caused acute illnesses at schools related to five episodes of pesticide drift.
- DPR concluded that if the ¼ mile regulation had been in effect these 34 acute pesticide related illnesses at schools would not have occurred. However, this conclusion was not supported by the much larger data set of Lee from eleven

states that found that *the majority of acute poisoning cases (primarily from soil fumigation) occurred at distances greater than 1/4 mile.*

- DPR concluded that a margin of safety for school children was required to reduce the chances of unintended pesticide drift.
- DPR found that the costs of the ¼ mile regulation (with 3,500 schools possibly impacted) to each agricultural grower were low, ranging from \$1,300-\$3,500 per year. No significant impacts were found on jobs or small businesses.

A ¼ Mile Part Time Restriction Is Not Strong Enough

While an important step forward, the California ¼ mile regulation is not based upon known chronic pesticide health effects, such as autism and reduction in IQ, and therefore does not adequately protect the developing child, infants, and young children. The California regulation only applies part time (while teachers and children are at school) and does not fully address pesticide exposures caused by volatilization and the transport of pesticides from agricultural soils and dusts into residential properties. In homes, studies have shown that infants and children are exposed to pesticides in dusts and soils by hand to mouth contact.

To protect Hawaiian women and children, restricted use pesticides should not be applied within ½ mile of any occupied structures, including residential structures. The ½ mile buffer distance is based upon University of California Berkeley study, that strongly documented neurological health impacts in children living at distances up to 0.6 mile from agricultural fields and findings of agriculturally used pesticides in household dusts at similar distances (7-9, 31-36).

There has often been discussion of a 100 foot spray buffer for Hawaii schools and day care centers. *A 100 foot buffer zone is scientifically insupportable and grossly inadequate.*

In addition to buffer zones, Hawaii should adopt a strategy to regulate the types and amounts of restricted pesticides that can be used on agricultural and residential lands. Hawaii's, California's and New York's (and now U.S. EPA's) recent bans and phase-outs on chlorpyrifos are excellent examples of appropriate regulatory action to protect the public from a neurologically damaging pesticide.

A Hawaii Pesticide Buffer Regulation is Needed

In conclusion, the Hawaii legislature needs to provide children and women teachers protection from potentially harmful exposure to restricted use pesticides by prohibiting the application of restricted use pesticides within ½ mile of schools and day care centers.

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SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 8:57:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill is a good start. Banning these toxics would be ideal. One half mile from schools is definitely not enough. If we are finding pesticides in the polar ice then absolutely no distance is safe enough especially for developing brains and bodies of children. Please become more familiar with the actual scientific research rather than taking the word of companies selling you something. Mahalo.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 8:31:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Pestacides should not be used are schools.

It has been proven to affect the developoment of children.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 8:50:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I stand in strong support for this bill. Contractors, too often, overuse chemicals. There needs to be more accountability.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 11:38:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB 352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawai‘i can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB 352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Brian Piotrowski, Kalauao

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:00:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tanya m naehu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB352.

mahalo, Tanya Maile Naehu

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:01:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

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California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:02:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Richard Janik, MD, Lihue

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:13:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Walraven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Elected Leaders,

You, the chosen, must protect the health of our Island Nation and its Inhabitants.

It is your sworn duty to do so, whether or not it is in the interest of Big Agribusiness or the lowly sovereign citizen.

The People need these "Buffer Zones" to be established around schools, housing, hospitals and wherever everyday walks-of-life people travel, live or congregate.

Other advanced nations of this world have totally banned and eliminated the use of these scientifically proven poisons. But here we are in good old boy Hawaii, still figuring out how to let these "Agribusiness contributors to your reelection funds" use their poison with little or no regard for you, us or the Aina. Shame on you. Stand up and support the legislation required to make difference. Support SB 352 SD2 or next election, you may not be so chosen.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:27:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Increase buffer zones for pesticides please

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:32:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I urge you to support SB352 SD1. There is a wealth of scientific evidence concerning pesticide drift and the heightened vulnerability of children to pesticide exposure, which underscores the necessity for establishing effective buffer zones to protect our communities, especially children, the elderly, and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) data in Hawai‘i shows that many communities continue to face significant risks from drift-prone pesticides. Scientific findings do not justify a mere 100-foot buffer zone, as research indicates that certain pesticides can drift over a mile, posing serious health threats. It’s crucial that we put the health of our keiki first.

California has successfully implemented similar legislation that mandates buffer zones around schools, benefiting farmworkers and communities adjacent to agricultural areas. This approach has not hindered their agrarian production or economy; in fact, it remains one of the most robust in the nation. Hawai‘i has the opportunity to enhance local food production while simultaneously safeguarding our most vulnerable citizens from pesticide drift.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children exposed to pesticides face significantly increased health risks, highlighting the need for additional protective measures against unintentional exposure. These risks includes early mental health problems like ADHD or bipolar effects on our future generations.

I am deeply concerned about the potential long-term effects of pesticide exposure on our keiki while they are at school or playing in our parks, as this is a health threat that could lead to severe conditions, including cancer, neurological issues, and respiratory problems.

Please prioritize our children’s health by passing SB352 SD1.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Ezgi Green
Waialua

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 5:04:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Goo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!



Testimony of Laulani Teale, MPH

in support of SB352



Aloha, my name is Laulani Teale, and I stand in strong support of SB352, a bill dedicated to creating buffer zones that protect our keiki from the harmful effects of pesticides.

Why Buffer Zones are Essential

Health and Safety of Children

Keiki and ‘Ōpio are especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides, as their bodies are still growing and developing. . The potential exposure to these harmful chemicals can lead to serious health issues, including respiratory problems, developmental delays, and chronic illnesses. It is our kuleana to ensure that they can grow up healthy and thrive in our island home.

Environmental Impact

Beyond our children, the use of pesticides poses a significant threat to our ‘āina. These chemicals can contaminate our soil and water, harming the flora and fauna that are vital to our ecosystems. By establishing buffer zones, we not only protect our keiki but also safeguard our beloved land and sea, ensuring that our natural beauty endures for generations to come.

Community Well-being

When we create buffer zones, we foster a sense of safety and well-being within our communities. Families can feel secure knowing that their children are shielded from harmful chemical exposure, which in turn enhances the overall quality of life for everyone. A healthy community is a thriving community.

The Role of SB352

SB352 seeks to establish designated areas around schools, playgrounds, and residential neighborhoods where the use of pesticides is restricted or prohibited. This proactive legislative measure is a vital step towards ensuring the health of our children and the preservation of our unique environment. It is our commitment to a future where the well-being of our keiki takes precedence, and they can play and learn in a safe, healthy space.

Conclusion

In supporting SB352, we are making a powerful statement for the health and safety of our children and the preservation of our environment. Together, we can commit to a future that prioritizes the well-being of our keiki and protects them from the dangers of pesticide exposure. Let us unite to create a safer and healthier Hawai'i.

Aloha,

Lana Lani

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 6:17:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill for the increased safety it provides for Hawaii's children and residents!

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 6:40:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kencho Gurung, Hilo

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 6:55:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

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Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 6:55:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

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Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 7:41:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emily Gambino, Makawao

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 8:14:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge you to pass SB352 SD1, which will establish meaningful buffer zones to ensure uniform protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

There is a need to do so. Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile. Exposure and can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) found that there are significantly increased health risks for children exposed to pesticides. Additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

Thank you

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 8:19:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Nooney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill 352 SB regarding pesticides. Guard our children from chemical pesticide drift. Glyphosate is carcinogenic!

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 10:34:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 11:07:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Like residents and members of many Hawaii community clubs, I support this measure. Protection of the health of our children cost little to the agricultural economy relative to the cost of rehabilitation and litigation of even one child's potential disability.

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dr Kimo Pestana DC

Retired

Diamond Head / Kahala

Honolulu 96816

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 4:24:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 5:10:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noel Shaw

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:18:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
allison vincent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

During a time in which the unearthing of corrupt policy making and corporate capture have made it clear that our current way of doing things has been highly influenced by the corporate bottom line, I think we should proceed with caution regarding safety and our keiki. Sure, they say these chemicals are safe, but how can we really be sure? Monsanto had had to pay out billions of dollars in settlements because it's now clear that glyphosate causes cancer in those who are in consistent close contact with it. Until we can assure that all chemicals being used are actually safe and not considered safe based off the labs done by the corporations themselves, we need to proceed with caution. I support increasing the pesticide and herbicides buffer zone around schools and parks because keiki are the more vulnerable, and also our future. We need to protect them, even if that means having to think of more innovative ways to deal with the pests in these areas. Perhaps we need to look to permaculture and plant with this in mind instead of trying to keep the grass monocultures going. It's important to work smarter not harder. There will always be a time of transition to work out the effects of shifting away from the "easy" solution (spraying).

All that being said, I think there should be some sort of provision for being allowed to utilize less risky forms of pest management if it's an emergency situation (for example- injection of pesticides into trees to fight something like coconut rhinoceros beetle)

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:33:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of all of our keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo nui for your consideration!

Safia Gravel, Hilo

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:51:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilana Stout	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ilana Stout, Pāhoa

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:55:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please **support SB352 SD1** to establish meaningful buffer zones to **ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.**

RUP usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100' buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to **drift over a mile** and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please **protect our keiki AND ALL LIFE** and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Danielle Guion, Makakilo, O'ahu, Hawai'i, Earth

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:55:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 10:32:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 10:42:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

I'm born and raised on Kaua'i and my mom has worked as an RN there for more than 30 years. For several decades she's been in the cancer ward, serving some of our sickest patients. She's told me that we have many more cases from the west side near where they spray pesticides in the crops. I have a friend out there who has 5 lovely children, and all of them born with learning disabilities. The chemicals are in the the water, poisoning the land and food we grow in it, and drift onto our communities.

We shouldn't be spraying these chemicals at all. Certainly buffer zones around ALL of our community spaces including residences and public spaces are the absolute minimum.

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100' buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lana Bilbo

Wailua, Kauai

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 11:02:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Rossi-Fukino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB352 SD1. There is overwhelming scientific evidence about the dangers of pesticide drift and the heightened vulnerability of children to pesticide exposure. This makes a compelling case for creating meaningful buffer zones to protect our communities, particularly our children, elderly, and other sensitive groups.

Analysis of pesticide use data in Hawai‘i has shown that many communities remain at risk of exposure to harmful pesticides that are prone to drift. The 100’ buffer zones currently in place don’t align with scientific research. Studies have demonstrated that certain pesticides can travel over a mile and still pose serious health risks. Our keiki are especially at risk, and their health must be our priority.

California has implemented similar laws requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools and communities near agricultural areas, while still maintaining its strong agricultural economy. Hawai‘i can do the same—supporting local food production while protecting our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has identified a significantly higher health risk for children exposed to pesticides, urging that more precautions be taken to safeguard them from accidental exposure.

As a mother of two young boys, I am deeply concerned about the long-term health risks of pesticide exposure for our keiki, especially when they are at school or playing in our parks. Pesticide exposure can lead to serious health issues, including cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory problems.

Please stand with our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Pua Rossi-Fukino, Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 12:13:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou, I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

In 1981, got married and became pregnant with my oldest son who was born in April of 1982. I lived in fear until his birth because Del Monte's spraying of the highly toxic pesticide heptachlor on its pineapple fields and feeding the pineapple tops to dairy cows contaminated Hawai'i's milk supply at that time. Can you imagine being told to "drink more milk" for your unborn baby and then worrying that the milk that you drank was poisoning him?

Heptachlor is a carcinogen and the effects of this contamination were wide-spread. I had breast cancer in 2005 and, to this day, I still fear that my son will come down with cancer related to the milk that I drank when he was a fetus.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 1:59:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support this bill.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 2:00:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Val Hertzog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

In January and February 2024, pesticides were sprayed twice along the highways within a few weeks of each other on Kaua‘i in Kapa‘a and Anahola. The first time was 1.3 miles and half of our staff and teachers at Kanuikapono Public Charter School got sick. On Feb 16, 2024 they

sprayed the highway in Anahola only .3 miles from school and again keiki and staff got sick. No one notified the school they were spraying and they did it during school hours according to citizens that were driving on the road. As an educator, I am very concerned for the health and wellness of our keiki and staff.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Val Hertzog

Kapa'a

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 3:09:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 4:24:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support to keep these toxic poisons as far away from our keiki and community as possible.
mahalo nui

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 5:07:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Strecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members,

I approach you today not only as a concerned resident but as a devoted mother whose heart is heavy with the weight of our community's health and safety. I earnestly urge you to consider the pressing need to pass the bill aimed at creating better buffer zones for the spraying of pesticides near schools and hospitals—areas where our children and families should feel secure.

During my pregnancy, I was employed on a ranch, during which time I unwittingly consumed tap water that I later learned was contaminated and deemed unsafe. At just 12 weeks into my pregnancy, I received the alarming news regarding the potential hazards posed by environmental toxins. Only 2 months later I learned at my ultrasound my baby would be born with a debilitating birth defect known as gastroschisis, a condition where his intestines were located outside of his body. Medical experts and scientists have drawn connections between this devastating birth defect and the chemical atrazine, a herbicide that is all too prevalent in Kauai's agricultural practices.

My son Arrow Pa has bravely endured a grueling series of nine surgeries, a challenging three-and-a-half-month stay in the NICU, and for the first year of his life, he was reliant on a feeding tube to receive nourishment. Recently, we faced yet another harrowing health scare when he required an emergency medivac to Oahu due to a life-threatening bowel obstruction—a complication arising from his previous surgeries. This recent health scare has amplified my concern and fueled my determination to fight for the implementation of stronger laws that will safeguard the children and families of Kauai from the perils of hazardous pesticide use.

As a mother and resident of Kauai, I carry an intrinsic responsibility to do what I can to protect not only my child but all children in our community from preventable health risks. It is an unbearable burden to witness your child suffer, and it compels me to take action.

I urge each and every one of you to reflect deeply on the implications of passing SB352 SD1. This bill represents not just a legal measure but a profound commitment to safeguarding our most vulnerable—our children and families—from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure. We stand at a pivotal moment where our actions can create a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community. By establishing safer buffer zones for pesticide spraying, we are taking a courageous step towards ensuring that our children can grow up in an environment free from

harmful toxins. This legislation is not merely about regulations; it embodies our responsibility as stewards of this beautiful island and protectors of future generations.

Let us not forget the voices of those who have suffered and the families who live in fear of what these chemicals could mean for their loved ones. We have the power to make a difference and to lead by example.

Passing SB352 SD1 is an opportunity for us to affirm our commitment to health, safety, and the well-being of our community. Together, we can foster a Kauai where children can thrive, families can feel secure, and our environment is respected.

I implore you to support this vital bill and help create a healthier, safer future for all. Let us unite in this effort to ensure that no other mother has to endure the pain and anxiety that my family has faced. The decisions made within these walls today will reverberate for years to come, shaping the legacy we leave for those who will inherit this beautiful island.

Thank you for your attention and for considering this critical matter.

Madison Strecker

Resident of Kauai

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 6:56:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Malia Chun, Kekaha, Kaua'i

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:01:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

loha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas. Eliel,Kapaa

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 11:04:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Joell Edwards, Wainiha

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 11:33:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Fritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

I have known so many people who have gotten sick from pesticide exposure. It's not necessary and the health and environmental risks are high. Let's keep Hawaii beautiful, safe and clean.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 4:04:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Irena Bliss
Ha‘ikū, Maui 96708

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 5:08:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i, Noreen Dougherty, am in strong support od SB352. I have worked with the cildren in Hawaii for 40 years. Please support SB352. It is necessary to increase the buffer zones around our keiki's schools.

respectfully,

Noreen Dougherty

Kapaa, Hawaii

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:07:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:14:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB352 SD1. It is extremely important to keep our keiki safe. Mahalo

Debra M Javar

Kona, Hawai'i

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:43:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:22:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Koerner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Support [SB352 SD1](#): Increased RUP Buffer Zones + RUP Reporting

On Kauai, everyone driving on or living near or going to school near the highway were continually poisoned last year by the broadcast spraying of Finale (Monsanto's new MORE TOXIC herbicide). For example, in January and February 2024, pesticides were sprayed twice along the highways within a few weeks of each other on Kaua'i in Kapa'a and Anahola. The first time was 1.3 miles and half of the staff and teachers at Kanuikapono Public Charter School got sick. On Feb 16, 2024 they sprayed the highway in Anahola only .3 miles from school and again keiki and staff got sick. No one notified the school they were spraying and they did it during school hours according to citizens that were driving on the road.

An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai'i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100' buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Diane Koerner, Greener Hawaii chairperson

420 Molo St., Kapaa, HI 96746

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 10:02:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

I also have seen how impossible it is for a normal person to read the reporting data as it is made available in its current form. Requiring a consistent unit of measurement would make this data more accessible to the average person to understand - which is the entire purpose of having a public summary in the first place.

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this bill.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 10:06:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I totally support increacing the buffer zones around fields being sprayed with harmful poisins! SB352 SD1 gives us that opportunity.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1. This should be a no brainer.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Pamela Burrell

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i 96754

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 10:22:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

I am asking you to please support SB352 SD1. I believe it is very important for our efforts to protect the health of our citizens. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 2:31:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

(808)866-7409

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 1:38:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Maile Naehu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hui o Kuapā 50c3 is a non-profit on Moloka'i that restores Hawaiian fishponds. We are in support of SB 352.

Mahalo nui, Maile Naehu - Vice-Chair

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 3:17:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of SB352 SD1 that requires the Department of Agriculture to use consistent units of measurement in its summary to the public on the amounts of restricted use pesticides used, and to establishes a one-half mile buffer zone for pesticides around schools and state and county public parks.

This bill is a no-brainer. 100-foot buffer zones are insufficient to protect our keiki, elderly, and communities. Scientific research shows pesticides can drift over a mile and cause serious health issues. The American Academy of Pediatrics warns that children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure, which can lead to cancer, neurological damage, and respiratory issues.

Please protect our communities and pass this important measure. In fact, please consider expanding the buffer zone even further to truly follow the science on what is actually needed to be fully protective.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 4:18:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Lukens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawai‘i can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ashley Lukens

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 4:34:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB352 SD1 with qualifications. Although I support the spirit and intentions of the bill I don't believe that it goes far enough. According to the bill, 'Pesticide drift can occur at distances up to 0.8 mile, or 4,224 feet, from the site of application'. Whereas, this bill states a buffer zone of only half a mile from parks and schools. So I believe the bill is a good start, but at the minimum should be revisited in the future to account for the discrepancy between .5 and .8 of a mile. Mahalo.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 6:15:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert H. Pahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members ,

I am writing in support of SB352 SD1 . Credible evidence suggest that there is potential risk to exposure of RUP's to children , the elderly , and the community when there is NO significant buffer zones . Please support the one half mile buffer zone and protect our children , elderly and the rest of our community from potential health risks. Mahalo nui loa ,

Robert H Pahia , Kula , Maui , Hawaii

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:30:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:50:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees, Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas. Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health. California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure. I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions. Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1. Thank you for your consideration!
Mahalo, Kiana Otsuka

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:57:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Moriwaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support SB 352 SD 1 to establish restricted pesticide buffer zones and to improve reporting of restricted pesticide use.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:19:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastasia Flanagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Anastasia Flanagan, Waimanalo

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:42:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo, Bill and Bobbie Best, Wailuku

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:01:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siobhan Coad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB352 SD1**. Research shows that detrimental impacts of pesticide drift on our communities, and that our children are uniquely susceptible to exposure. It is imperative that we protect our families and communities from these chemicals. Establishing buffer zones is a meaningful intervention to keep us safe and healthy.

The science shows that 100 foot buffer zones are insufficient as some pesticides are known to drift over a mile, causing adverse health impacts to those exposed. I am extremely concerned about the long-term health of our community and it is our responsibility to ensure that all of our children can grow up healthy and fulfilled. Exposure to these chemicals can lead to cancer, neurological and respiratory damage. We must keep our community safe.

Thank you for your time, and please pass SB352 SD1.

Siobhan Coad, Honolulu

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:38:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan K Baldado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT SB352.

Mahalo nui.

LATE

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:18:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:24:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB352 SD1. An abundance of scientific literature on pesticide drift and the unique susceptibility of children to pesticide exposure provide a sound argument for establishing meaningful buffer zones to ensure even protections for communities, children, elderly and sensitive areas.

Analysis of restricted use pesticide (RUP) usage data in Hawai‘i has revealed that many communities are still heavily exposed to drift prone pesticides. 100’ buffer zones are simply not supported by scientific research. Research has shown that certain pesticides are known to drift over a mile and cause health impacts. Keiki are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and we must prioritize their health.

California has enacted similar legislation requiring pesticide buffer zones around schools, the farmworkers and communities living near agricultural areas, yet still maintains the most robust agricultural production and economy in the US. Hawaii can both meet its goals to increase local food production and protect our most vulnerable from pesticide drift.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

I am very concerned about long-term pesticide exposure of keiki while they are at school or at play in our parks, which constitutes a health threat that can lead to cancer, neurological, and respiratory damage, among other medical conditions.

Please protect our keiki and pass SB352 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan Wong, Kailua