



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
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SB 499 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concept of SB 499. We agree with the statement that compliance with pesticide law is crucial to protecting public health and ensuring public confidence in the State's oversight of pesticide use.

This bill increases the penalties, but also maintains the flexibility of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to determine the appropriate penalty on a case-by-case basis. It also provides for a hearing if and when a violation is cited.

Pesticide use is an integral part of commercial agriculture for many producers in Hawai'i when growing edible and non-edible crops. The continued use of pesticides will be best maintained with proper oversight and penalty where applicable.

One issue that this legislation does not address are the resources needed to maintain that oversight. HDOA is the best source to address that issue.

In summary, we support SB 499 and defer to HDOA as to any limitations that may be inherent in the application of this bill.