



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
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SB 2974 SD1 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 2974 SD1.

This measure updates the composition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to replace representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries, and adds a representative of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United. At the time of the Advisory Committee's establishment, the sugar and pineapple industries were major stakeholders in the State's agricultural landscape. Replacing the sugar and pineapple industries with alternative representation sounds logical at this point in time.

Invasive pests (disease, insects, plants) are main issues affecting the ability of Hawai'i to practice agriculture. The judicious use of pesticides in Hawai'i is one tool that needs to remain viable for the economic viability of agriculture in the state. Pesticide use can also become a political issue. Therefore, it is critical that the members of this Advisory Committee be chosen based on knowledge, and not political agenda.

The Governor is responsible for appointing members based on nominations from the organizations mentioned in the bill. We suggest that criteria for the selection of members to this Committee be recommended to the Governor in order to help with his selection process. Members should be recognized as experts in one or more areas of pesticide chemistry, pesticides with respect to public health, and pesticide efficacy. This is consistent with the mission of the committee that includes advising the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) in pesticide problems.

We support the intent of SB 2974 SD1, but defer to the HDOA as to their priorities.