



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, February 14, 2022 at 1:20 p.m.

By  
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### SB 2974 – 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 SB 2974 which is similar to SB 2410, but different levels of detail.

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. 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 representation from the coffee and diversified agriculture industries sounds logical. It is suggested that the Advisory Committee include members with expertise representing 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.

It is also important to note that the landscape of agriculture has changed drastically over the years, as has the use of pesticides. Today, biocontrol is becoming more available and we are seeing a decrease in the development and testing of chemical pesticides over the use of biocontrols.

The development of biocontrols, however, requires much better facilities than Hawai'i has today. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council has been pushing for two biosecurity facilities in Hawai'i--one with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Hilo and another in Kunia. The Hilo site will require significant support from the Hawai'i legislature. Until these sites are developed the work that could be accomplished by biocontrol integrated pest management programs will continue to be difficult, even with HDOA and CTAHR active in developing biocontrol agents.

Thus, chemical control will continue to be necessary in order to maintain our ecosystem integrity and counter invasive pests in agriculture. In fact, some level will probably always be necessary for agriculture productivity and human health.

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