

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH**

**APRIL 2, 2018  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 157/SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH TO CONDUCT A JOINT STUDY OF THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM  
EFFECTS OF CHLORPYRIFOS ON FARMWORKERS**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 157/SR 117 that requests the Departments of Agriculture and Health to conduct a joint study of the short-term and long-term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers, with special and focused attention on the work environment and control of the environment for pregnant or possibly pregnant farmworkers, and to submit a report of their findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2019 legislative session. The Department of Agriculture opposes these resolutions and offers the following comments.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture does not have the staff, expertise, or resources to conduct an effective study of this kind. The study of farmworker populations to assess the association between pesticide exposure and health effects is an extremely complex undertaking. The ability to characterize long-term health outcomes, exposure variables, and confounders along with the ability to follow subjects over time present specific challenges in studying chronic health effects in farmworkers. In addition, the farmworker population in Hawaii that handles pesticides, particularly chlorpyrifos, and specifically women, especially those that may be pregnant, may be too small to serve as a basis for a statistically valid study.

Chlorpyrifos sales in Hawaii have been decreasing over the last several years. Restricted Use Pesticide sales records submitted to HDOA Pesticides Branch show that Statewide, annual chlorpyrifos sales have decreased 64% since 2014. This includes a 42% decrease in Hawaii County, 71% decrease in Kauai County, 85% decrease in Honolulu County, and 88% decrease on Maui County.

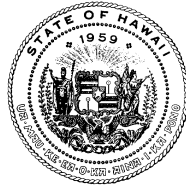


The EPA regulates pesticides in a manner that, if used as directed, should cause no adverse effects to humans or the environment. Every chlorpyrifos label requires personal protective equipment (PPE), in addition to specific directions for method of application, mixing directions, buffer zones, etc. The label directions for mixing, loading, and applying the pesticide are designed to minimize any contact with the pesticide. PPE is meant to protect everyone from exposure to chlorpyrifos if there is a possibility of contacting the pesticide during mixing, loading, or applying. The label directions, including PPE, method of application, mixing directions, buffer zones, and other cautionary labeling, protect all humans from exposure.

In California, farmers use over one million pounds of chlorpyrifos per year. After conducting its own risk assessment, independent of that conducted by EPA, California did not ban chlorpyrifos. It did recently release Interim Recommended Permit Conditions for the use of the pesticide. These conditions limit chlorpyrifos application to certain setback distances of specific sites, and depend on the method of application, the application rate, and whether the site is occupied. The Department is currently in the process of restricting the use of all formulations of chlorpyrifos by reclassifying it to a State restricted-use pesticide (RUP) which will only allow it to be used by state-tested and certified applicators. Additionally, the Department will look to mirror further restrictions through the annual use permit such as regulated buffer zones. The revised State rules are anticipated to be finalized by this summer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these resolutions.





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SCR157/SR 117**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF**  
**HEALTH TO CONDUCT A JOINT STUDY OF THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-**  
**TERM EFFECTS OF CHLORPYRIFOS ON FARMWORKERS**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND  
HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 2, 2018  
Time: 1:15 p.m.

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** No funding is provided to implement this measure and the Department  
2 defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for appropriation priorities.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department, while supporting the intent, respectfully opposes  
4 these resolutions. The resolutions request the Departments of Agriculture and Health to conduct  
5 a study examining short and long term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers. The requested  
6 health and exposure study is beyond the Department's available resources and expertise. In  
7 discussions with expert colleagues at the 2017 Children's Environmental Health Forum, the  
8 comparatively low volume of chlorpyrifos applied in the State, relatively small population of  
9 Hawaii farmworkers exposed to chlorpyrifos, difficulty monitoring and tracking long term and  
10 the challenges of measuring subtle neurobehavioral effects in children years after the mother's  
11 exposure make Hawaii a difficult study setting.
- 12

1 The Department keeps abreast of current research on chlorpyrifos and routinely confers with  
2 expert external partners, including the Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry, the  
3 Environmental Protection Agency, researchers and clinicians at the Western States Pediatric  
4 Environmental Health Specialty Unit, the Hawaii Poison Center and others. In addition, the  
5 Department regularly provides toxicological assistance assessing potential exposures to the  
6 Department of Agriculture. Farmworkers, pregnant women or others who have concerns about  
7 chlorpyrifos in their workplace or other exposures to chlorpyrifos may contact the Hawaii Poison  
8 Center 24 hours a day at 800-222-1222 and speak directly to RN's trained in medical  
9 toxicologists, pharmacists and medical toxicologists.

10

11 The Department concurs with EPA findings described in the November, 2016 "Chlorpyrifos  
12 Revised Human Health Risk Assessment," and supports steps by the Department of Agriculture  
13 to further restrict and carefully monitor usage of chlorpyrifos products licensed in Hawaii.  
14 Despite the lack of federal action, the current state of the science supports restrictions to reduce  
15 exposures to applicators, farmworkers, including those pregnant or possibly pregnant, as well as  
16 local communities that go beyond food tolerances to include workplace and bystander exposures  
17 from both general and restricted use products containing chlorpyrifos.

18

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.

To: Hawaii State Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Commerce,  
Consumer Protection and Health  
Hearing Date/Time: Mon., Apr. 2, 2018, 1:15 p.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 224  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in support of S.C.R. 157  
and S.R. 117

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Baker and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.C.R. 157 and S.R. 117, which request the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health to conduct a joint study of the short- and long-term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers.

PPVNH is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. To that end, we support legislative efforts that seek to help us understand the sexual and reproductive health impacts of chlorpyrifos in our communities and inform policies that seek to regulate pesticide exposure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field  
Hawaii Legislative Director

**SCR-157**

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 9:55:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Gregory	Testifying for EcoTipping Points Project	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chlorpyrifos is already known to be very dangerous for farmworkers. It should be banned, not studied.

**SCR-157**

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 2:02:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; the Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR157 / SR 117** relating to a study of the short-term and long-term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR157 / SR 117** and support its passage.

**SCR157 / SR 117** is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health to jointly conduct a study of the short-term and long-term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers, with special and focused attention on the work environment and control of the environment for pregnant or possibly pregnant farmworkers, including consideration of: (1) Information provided directly to the Department of Agriculture from its consultants and experts in the development and implementation of any chlorpyrifos farmworker studies; (2) The raw data used in the requested studies; (3) The availability of appropriate medical services for exposed workers;

(4) The number of farmworkers who were known to be pregnant while employed as farmworkers and the record of the levels of exposure for the pregnant farm worker and any children; (5)

Recommendations as to whether other state agencies should participate in this study and whether a new principal state department should be established with subject matter jurisdiction over environmental issues; and (6) Any other information relevant to the subject of the requested study.



The DPH Platform states that "We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 407-425 (2016)).

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.(Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 432-439 (2016)).

Given that **SCR157 / SR 117** equests the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health to jointly conduct a study of the short-term and long-term effects of chlorpyrifos on farmworkers, with special and focused attention on the work environment and control of the environment for pregnant or possibly pregnant farmworkers, including consideration of: (1) Information provided directly to the

Department of Agriculture from its consultants and experts in the development and implementation of any chlorpyrifos farmworker studies; (2) The raw data used in the requested studies; (3) The availability of appropriate medical services for exposed workers; (4) The number of farmworkers who were known to be pregnant while employed as farmworkers and the record of the levels of exposure for the pregnant farm worker and any children; (5) Recommendations as to whether other state agencies should participate in this study and whether a new principal state department should be established with subject matter jurisdiction over environmental issues; and (6) Any other information relevant to the subject of the requested study, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**SCR-157**

Submitted on: 3/29/2018 2:22:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Circe Carr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: