

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN
ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING INCIDENTS OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE
AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, research has shown that the detrimental effects of
2 exposure to chemicals, such as pesticides, can be affected
3 critically by the timing of the exposure, including what stage
4 of life a person was in when the exposure occurred; and
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6 WHEREAS, as children are still developing, their bodies are
7 particularly susceptible to pesticide exposure; moreover, as
8 children's bodies have a higher surface to volume ratio than
9 adults, proportionately, pesticide exposure may affect them
10 more; and
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12 WHEREAS, the commercial application of pesticides has been
13 suspected in many incidents of students and teachers becoming
14 ill while on a school campus, including incidents occurring at
15 Waimea Canyon School, Kauai, in November 2006 and January 2007;
16 Kahuku High School, Oahu, in May 2007; and St. Joseph Elementary
17 School, Oahu, in March 2008; and
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19 WHEREAS, on January 25, 2008, due to a noxious odor, ten
20 students and one teacher at Waimea Canyon School were sent to
21 the emergency room with symptoms of headaches, nausea, and
22 dizziness; and
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24 WHEREAS, although the source of the odor has not been
25 ascertained, the primary suspect is Syngenta Seeds,
26 Incorporated, and its spraying of pesticides on lands it
27 cultivates for farming that are adjacent to the school; and
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29 WHEREAS, after the January 25th incident, the Kauai
30 representative of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association
31 requested the Department of Health (DOH) to test the students
32 and teachers for toxic levels of pesticides and was told in



1 reply that it is not the Department's practice to conduct
2 testing; and
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4 WHEREAS, members of the Oahu Retired Teachers Association
5 and the Hawaii State Teacher's Association have voiced concern
6 regarding pesticide spraying in proximity to, and on, school
7 campuses; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
12 Agriculture is requested to establish a working group to develop
13 an action plan for addressing pesticide exposure at public
14 schools and a monitoring program for schools that may be or may
15 have been affected adversely from pesticide exposure; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall
18 comprise:
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20 (1) The advisory committee on pesticides, as established
21 pursuant to section 149A-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
22 and
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24 (2) Two representatives of the Department of Education,
25 including a school administrator and a teacher from
26 school districts that contain schools located in close
27 proximity to areas where the commercial application of
28 pesticides has or is likely to occur; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group on pesticide
31 use in proximity to schools is requested to investigate and
32 issue findings, including but not limited to the conditions and
33 requirements under which commercial application of pesticides
34 may resume following an incident of pesticide exposure at a
35 public school; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
39 Board of Agriculture, the Chairperson of the Board of Education,
40 the Superintendent of Education, the Director of Health, members



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1 of the advisory committee on pesticides as defined in section
2 149A-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii State Teacher's
3 Association, and the Governor.
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