



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
And  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.  
By  
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And  
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### HB 1756 – RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chairs Lee and Creagan, Vice Chairs Lowen and DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 1756. We oppose the bill as written with reservations.

The current situation concerning the availability and use of chlorpyrifos is unacceptable. The chemical is not a restricted use insecticide and is available to anyone. Research has documented its potential to cause damage to children and pregnant women under certain conditions. Chlorpyrifos is also one of the most used and effective insecticides that control damaging insects to plant production.

We oppose the bill because there are other options that should be addressed before banning the chemical. The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is currently rewriting its pesticide rules. One aspect of that rewrite is to make it easier to move a chemical to the restricted use list. Once on the list, a restricted use chemical requires application by a certified pesticide applicator. We suggest that the HDOA be allowed to work through their process and move this chemical to the restricted use list. In addition, the use of the chlorpyrifos should be restricted to ground application.