



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
And
House Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9:35 a.m.
By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 231/HR 201 – 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.

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 in support with comments for HCR 231/HR 201.

In general, we support the idea of continued study on all agricultural pesticides and their effect on the health of the Hawaiian citizenry. Our comments are directed on the accuracy of statements made in the resolution that should be corrected and to provide further detail on the CHARGE study and what it found that should help add to the discussion.

Comments:

Page 1 item 2: Should read that “chlorpyrifos pesticide drift CAN reach unsafe levels....”.

Page 1 item 3: Should read that “chlorpyrifos CAN be found at unsafe levels....”.

Page 2: To further expand on the CHARGE study, in addition to what the resolution says the study also found:

- Unfavorable genes and a lack of prenatal vitamin supplementation increased chance of autism by 7-fold.
- Warned of exposure to pesticides used on pets inside the home.

- Noted that folic acid supplements ameliorated the effects of pesticides (from outside or in the home).
- The CHARGE study did not address the influence of the range of hazardous chemicals found in dust in the home, which is becoming a major concern about health of children in homes. That interaction with Ag chlorpyrifos should be an important concern is a study like this.

We support the intent of HCR 231/HR 201 to study the short-term and long-term effects on farmworkers and pregnant women.