



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture

And

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
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HB 872 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 872 relating to environmental protection with the intent of requiring a 100 foot buffer around schools when glyphosate is applied. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources opposes the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen. However, this is in conflict to assessments by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the European Food Safety Authority. In addition, the findings of IARC have been called into question due to a board members statement that IARC did not review all studies available.

There has been concern expressed, based on a recent court case that glyphosate has been linked to non-hodgkins lymphoma. However, the National Institutes of Health did a comprehensive study (the Agricultural Health Study) that included 54,000 licensed pesticide applicators and found no link of non-hodgkins lymphoma with glyphosate.

Pesticides are toxic and one way to look at them is to compare toxicities. While this is not completely accurate, it can be illuminating and give perspective. The information below uses the LD50, which estimates the lethal dose that would result in mortality of half the test sample.

<u>Compound</u>	<u>LD50 (mg/kg)</u>
Water	90,000
Sucrose (sugar)	30,000
Ethanol	7,000
Glyphosate	5,600
Baking soda	4,220
Table salt	3,000
Hydrogen peroxide	1,580
Chocolate	1,265
Copper sulfate (organic pesticide)	300
Caffeine	192
Aflatoxin (a mycotoxin in peanuts grown under stress)	0.003

The same type of evaluation can be made using different measures of toxicity with similar results.

Another way to evaluate the danger posed by glyphosate, using IARC's own classification is to look at what it considers to definitely cause cancer. That would be agents in one category more dangerous than glyphosate. For example, processed meat is in Group 1 (carcinogenic to humans) as is estrogen. Glyphosate is in Group 2A (probably carcinogenic to humans).

Therefore, we oppose this bill at this time based on the fact that the evidence does not warrant a specific buffer strip prescription for the use of glyphosate based on its low toxicity relative to other common products and the credible evaluation of national agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.