



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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SB 3095 SD1 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

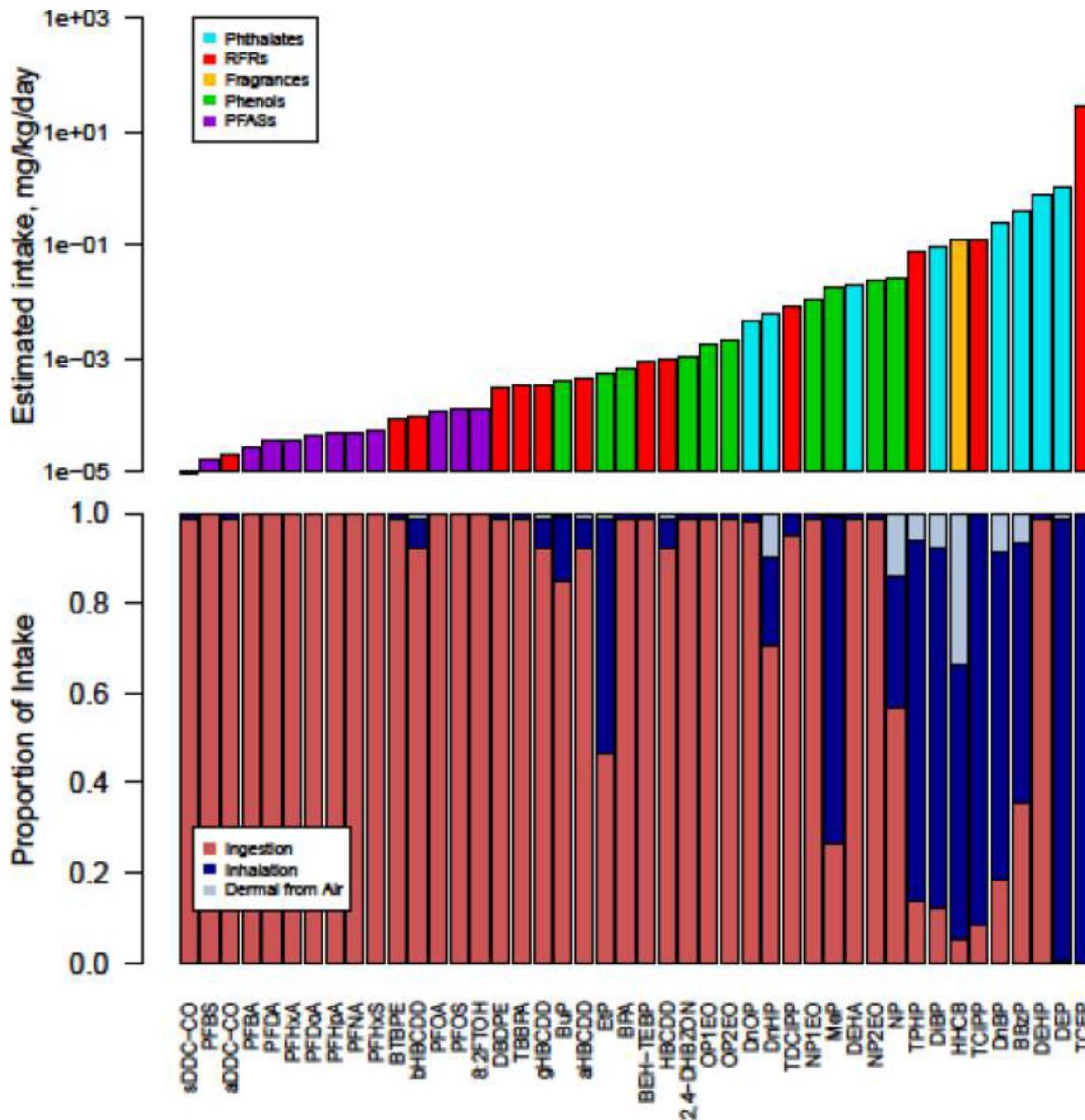
Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 3095 SD1 as written. Our opposition is not to having better regulation of pesticides applied during commercial agricultural production. More stringent permitting and regulations to their use is necessary. Nor is it in opposition to the intent of this bill to study the effect of buffer strips, which is necessary information. It is in response to the incompleteness of the bill.

This legislation is in response to issues raised by concerned citizens. Yet, the area of concern – the use of hazardous chemicals – is currently not addressing the major hazard that our children face. Concerned citizens feel that the agricultural use of pesticides is affecting the health of children. It is agreed that this is a potential concern to be studied. Yet, the question then becomes – why does this bill not address the pesticides/harmful chemicals used inside the home. We refer the committee to a 2016 meta-analysis on the type and amount of hazardous chemicals on indoor dust (See reference below). A figure from that paper is copied below. The upper graph shows the estimated intake in mg/kg/day. Taking just the top 5 chemicals found on dust in the household, one can see that this source should logically be the primary concern for the health of children in schools or homes. Potential exposure to harmful chemicals far exceeds the exposure that one might expect from an agricultural pesticide application made by a certified professional. The top five chemicals alone have been shown to be implicated in health affects related to reproduction, the endocrine system, developmental issues, immune responses, respiratory effects, digestive system problems and are known carcinogens. By not addressing pesticides and harmful chemical use inside the home or school as part of this bill, the legislation ignores the major source of hazardous chemicals to which children are exposed and may confound the results of the study by not knowing the true risk to which our children are exposed by commercial application of pesticide in agricultural production.

This bill will produce useful data on the applicability of buffer strips, if the funding is sufficient. However, we feel it will not address the major problem facing children's exposure to hazardous chemicals. The bill would be much more useful if it (1) included a similar number of control schools that are not by commercial agriculture operations in order to better understand the levels of the target chemical found, and (2) included sampling for hazardous chemicals associated with dust in and around schools in order to best understand the threat children are under and the role that commercial application of pesticides play in that threat.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 3095 SD1 as written.



Susanna D. Mitro, Robin E. Dodson, Veena Singla, Gary Adamkiewicz, Angelo F. Elmi, Monica K. Tilly, and Ami R. Zota. Consumer Product Chemicals in Indoor Dust: A Quantitative Metaanalysis of U.S. Studies. DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.6b02023. Environ. Sci. Technol. 2016, 50, 10661–10672.