UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B.#291, H.D. 1

RELATING TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES

Testimony Presented Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

March 17, 2005

By

Andrew G. Hashimoto
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai‘i

Testimony for
House Bill 291, H.D. 1

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Presented before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

The Twenty-third Legislature
State of Hawai‘i
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by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to the decision-making process on House Bill 291, H.D. 1, which adds a landscape professional to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

We support the intent of HB291, HD1.

Hawai‘i’s landscaping industry is valued at $490 million and employs about 10,000 individuals. Employment for gardeners and groundskeepers is projected to increase by 130 jobs per year through 2008. This industry accounts for much of the current growth in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector.

Pesticides, including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and other classes of pest-killing agricultural chemicals, are widely used in the landscaping industry. Unlike many farming operations that are located away from population centers, landscaping is performed in public spaces and residential areas. Members of the landscape industry interface with the general public. These include home gardeners who in some cases use pesticides at higher rates than are seen in commercial agriculture, where overuse of chemical inputs is known to increase costs and limit profits.

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides advises and assists the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture in developing policies and addressing problems related to pesticides. Landscape professionals have unique expertise that would contribute to the effectiveness of the committee. At the same time, having a designated member on the committee would help increase awareness within the landscape industry of the issues being addressed by the committee.

For these reasons, we support the intent of HB291, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.