



WAILUA - KAPA'A
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

July 27, 2013

VIA EMAIL: counciltestimony@kauai.gov

Kaua'i County Councilmembers
County of Kaua'i
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, HI 96766

RE: Support of Bill 2491 Relating to Pesticides and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Aloha Council Chair Furfaro and Councilmembers:

The Wailua-Kapa'a Neighborhood Association (W-KNA) is pleased to support Bill 2491 and we recognize the benefits of each component of the bill.

Current levels of state and federal regulatory protections are insufficient. Bill 2491 can help mitigate the health and safety risks resulting from intensive pesticide use and the impacts of experimental testing of GMOs. We ask that the council exercise "home rule" to afford residents important safeguards which include disclosure requirements, buffer zones and conducting an Environmental Impact Study. We believe these regulatory tools are within the county's legal authority.

The heaviest agricultural users of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) on Kaua'i are the global agro-chemical corporations Dow, Syngenta, Pioneer, and BASF. The necessary and repetitive use of these toxic chemicals on genetically modified seed crops, even if applied under the direct supervision of trained and certified applicators (as mandated by the EPA) leaves room for doubt about the safety of adjacent neighborhoods, schools and the natural environment.

Pesticide exposure, even at low levels, can cause significant harm. Kaua'i residents have the right to know what RUPs and what genetically modified organisms are being used on a significant scale within this county. Chemical-dependent methods of GMO-based agriculture call for a higher degree of caution. We cannot simply trust the industry because there is a long history of regulatory authorities reversing their approvals of products as a result of continued testing related to pesticide exposure and the health hazards they pose.

We ask the Council to support Bill 2491 to afford residents and the environment reasonable health and safety protections in response to the restricted use chemical dependent methods of GMO-based agriculture and experimental testing on Kaua'i.

Sincerely,

Rayne Regush
Chairperson
On behalf of the W-KNA Board

cc: Sen. Kouchi, Rep. Kawakami, Rep. Tokioka, Rep. Morikawa, Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr.

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"We treasure our rural community"

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