

January 30, 2017
Room 224
1:15 pm

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
TESTIMONY ON SB 778: RELATING TO PESTICIDES

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee:

My name is Sarah Styran and I am a resident of Hanapepe on the west side of Kauai.

I do not support SB 778.

The recommendations of the Kauai Joint Fact Finding group are not warranted or consistent with the findings of the report. **I am very familiar with the report and recommendations because I was a member of the JFF group.**

Having participated in the year plus-long review of all data, reports, interviews, field visits, and other information, I would like to make it very clear that the report recommendations were actually written in August of 2015, **well before the group even completed its investigation and report.**

When the JFF group completed the draft report, I raised the issue that the previously drafted recommendations did not match our findings; however, the facilitator Peter Adler *insisted* that we had agreed to the recommendations months ago **and they would not be revisited or changed** to accommodate what the group had learned. This was extremely disturbing.

The JFF group also received a lot of feedback from the community and experts when the draft report was released for public comment. Many reviewers noted that the recommendations were not consistent with the findings of the report. Among these were the Hawaii Department of Health, as well as the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Despite this feedback, much of which was from experts in the fields of health, agriculture, epidemiology, and scientific research, Mr. Adler and some of the JFF participants did not want to change the recommendations to ensure that they were consistent with the findings. This was alarming since participants were previously promised that relevant comments from experts and the public would be taken into consideration and the report would be modified accordingly.

As a scientist, with a doctorate in a directly relevant field, I was astonished and sorely disappointed that the JFF group chose to ignore the excellent feedback from the many professionals who took the time to carefully review our citizen-group's work. It was one of the reasons that after more than a year of painstaking work combing through data and evidence, I

decided to resign from the JFF group rather than put my name and reputation on this document.

As you consider this bill, I hope that you will take the JFF report and recommendations for what they are -- a vehicle for the pre-ordained and unsupported recommendations of its biased membership -- rather than what they should have been -- a good-faith effort to determine facts and develop recommendations to assist our community in making sound and well-informed policy decisions.

Since the report came out, I have followed the response by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and I was pleased that the agency and others, are already taking significant steps to address public concerns about pesticides. I sincerely believe that there are many more constructive ways that the State of Hawaii could use \$3 million dollars per year, over two years, to support community health while also supporting agriculture in Hawaii.

If you have questions for me, please feel free to contact me via email at sarah.styan@hawaiiantel.net

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sarah Styan