

AiKea Movement * Aloha 'Aina Project * Babes Against Biotech * Beach Road Farms * Earthjustice * GMO Free Hawaii Island * GMO Free Kaua'i * GMO Free O'ahu * Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action * Hawai'i Center for Food Safety * Hawai'i SEED * Hui Aloha 'Aina Momona * Maui United * MOM Hui * North Shore O.H.A.N.A * 'Ohana 'O Kaua'i * Pesticide Action Network North America * SHAKA Movement * Sierra Club of Hawai'i * Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i * UNITE HERE! Local 5



June 2, 2016

TO:

The Honorable Governor Ige
Office of the Governor
415 Beretania St. #5
Honolulu, HI 96813



CC:

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
Hawai'i Department of Health
Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources
Hawai'i Department of Education
Office of Hawaiian Affairs



RE: Kaua'i Joint Fact Finding Report



We the undersigned organizations applaud the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the Kaua'i County Council, and the Office of the Governor for engaging in this year and a half long joint fact finding process.



It is clear pesticides are of increasing concern to communities across the state – and for good reason. Acute exposure to pesticides triggers nausea, vomiting, headaches, difficulty breathing and other symptoms. But medical science also tells us that chronic exposure to low levels of certain pesticides used heavily in Hawaii is known or suspected to cause neurobehavioral disorders, cancers, adverse birth outcomes and asthma, among other disorders. Children, fetuses and workers are at particular risk.



Now that the joint fact finding process has been completed, the working group has recommended that the State take immediate action to overhaul Hawaii's pesticide regulations, including establishment of a consistent buffer zone policy. Among other recommendations that should be implemented are improved collection of health data, regular monitoring for pesticide drift and pesticide residues in Hawaii's water and soil, and a program for voluntary tests of children's blood and urine for pesticide residues. These and other measures recommended by the working group would go a long way towards increasing transparency about pesticide use in the state, and better protecting the health of community members at risk of exposure.



We urge Governor David Ige, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the Hawai'i Department of Health, the Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to take the report's recommendations seriously and implement these measures now. The health and wellbeing of our keiki should not have to wait another day.



Mahalo for your consideration.

