

Public Informational Briefing on the JFF Draft Report

Kaua`i Veterans Center

April 4, 2016

7:00p to 9:00p

Draft JFF Report on “Pesticide Use by Large Agribusinesses on Kaua`i” can be viewed or downloaded at www.accord3.com/pg1000.cfm

Aloha and Welcome

- **Welcome** – *Peter Adler*
- **Blessing for Wisdom and Civility** -*Sabra Kauka*
- **Summary of Findings** – *Kawika Winter*
- **Summary of Recommendations** – *Lee Evslin*
- **Discussion** – *JFF Panel Members*
- **Q&A to Panel to Panel on Cards** – *Audience*
- **Adjourn**

Ground Rules

- Goal is to learn, not win points for a viewpoint. Exercise respect (skip the booing, clapping or cheering)
- Not an evening for testimonies at microphones. Use the cards:
 - Ask a factual question
 - Send us a factual addition we missed
 - Offer a factual correction if we got something wrong
- Live and show civility, respect, and *aloha* for everyone

Background

- **Initiated by HDOA, co-funded by CoK. Cost \$150,000 and took a year.**
- **Selection, Vetting and Project Management: The ACCORD3.0 Network**
- **Members of the Panel**
 - Adam Asquith, PhD - Entomology
 - Lee Evslin, MD – Pediatrics
 - Gerardo Rojas Garcia, - MS - Agricultural Engineering
 - Kathleen West-Hurd, - PhD -- Planning
 - Sarah Styan, PhD – Horticulture
 - Douglas Wilmore, MD – Surgery
 - Kawika Winter, PhD - Botany
 - Louisa Wooton, Certificates in Agriculture

Process

Phase-1

Organization

- Conflict of Interest disclosures
- Signed charter of commitments
- Brief training on joint fact finding
- Reviewed assertions and criticisms raised in 2491
- Formulated 5 Key Questions
- Listening sessions: Westside communities, Native Hawaiians, seed companies, government agencies, and others

1. How much land do the seed companies and Kaua`i Coffee actually farm?
2. What pesticides do they use, how much, when and where?
3. Is there discernable evidence of environmental harms?
4. Is there discernable evidence of human health harms?
5. How effective is government oversight and regulation?

Phase-2

Data Gathering

- Gathered quality studies (meta-analyses and peer reviewed literature) on environmental and human health interactions with pesticides.
- Gathered available data on the farming and pesticide “footprints”, environmental samples, and local health data.

Phase-3

Deliberation and Analysis

Phase-4

Public Comments and Final Report

Key Findings

CHAPTER II. How much land do the seed companies actually farm?

Seed Company Footprint (2014)*	
Leased acres	13,500
Cropped acres	1,841

***Majority of land on the West Side,
but includes research sites in Hanamā`ulu and Līhu`e**

CHAPTER III. What pesticides are used, how much, when and where?

Products	Amounts	Tons*
Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs)	23	18
Active Ingredients	16	7.5

Pesticide usage by seed companies and Kaua`i Coffee (2013-15)

**This figure isn't helpful since it treats all pesticides the same.*

...what, how much, when and where? [continued]

- *No data in key areas:*
 - *Ag uses (precise application locations and times)*
 - *Other users (home and garden use, golf courses, hotels, etc.)*
- *Largest users of RUPs (75% of sales) not Ag-related*
 - *Fumigators*
 - *Dept. of Public Works (chlorine)*

CHAPTER IV. Is there discernable evidence of environmental harms?

- *Pesticides can and do drift beyond their agricultural targets through water, air, or dust*
- *We reviewed 17 sampling studies*
- *Most of the pesticides found were persistent from chemicals used in sugar and pine days*

...environmental harms? [continued]

- *The three currently used pesticides found in the studies were in trace amounts*
 - *Chlorpyrifos*
 - *Metolachlor*
 - *Atrazine*
- *They exceeded EPA environmental benchmarks, but were well below human health standards.*

...environmental harms? [continued]

- *Currently no direct, statistically significant evidence of harm to Kaua`i's flora and fauna*
- *More and better studies are needed*

CHAPTER V. Is there discernable evidence of human health harms?

- *Because of the small populations and lack of reliable and accurate exposure data, cannot prove or disprove that the currently used pesticides are causing adverse health problems.*
- *We reviewed 20 health conditions commonly associated with pesticide use (nationally and internationally).*
 - *Associations are not uniform*
 - *Some are statistically weaker or stronger*

...human health harms? [continued]

5 of these 20 conditions appear elevated on the Westside:

1. *Developmental delay*
2. *Attention deficit disorder*
3. *Renal disease*
4. *Diabetes*
5. *Obesity.*

...human health harms? [continued]

- *Cannot prove or disprove these medical conditions are caused by seed companies*
 - *Insufficient environmental testing*
 - *No human or wildlife exposure testing*
 - *Genetic and socio-economic factors also need to be examined*
- *More important: mounting evidence that “chronic” exposure (as opposed to “acute”) is worrisome.*
 - *Chronic exposure comes from all sources.*

CHAPTER VI. How effective is government oversight and regulation?

- *EPA (Federal) sets legal standards*
 - *Written labels carry the force of law*
- *States can be stricter if they choose*
- *California, also in EPA Region-9, has the best monitoring and reporting system in the U.S.*
- *Hawai`i DOH oversees and administers:*
 - *Pesticide practices*
 - *Voluntary Good Neighbor Program for reporting RUPs use*

CHAPTER VII. What happened at Waimea Canyon Middle School?

- *Conflicting community opinions about 2006 and 2008 health evacuations remain.*
 - *Some assert pesticides, others say it was stinkweed.*
- *JFF reviewed 500 pages of incident reports.*
- *No conclusive evidence*
 - *There's a clear need for better response practices*

CHAPTER VIII. Are there new developments?

- *Glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, and Enlist Duo are under scientific and regulatory scrutiny.*
- *Chlorpyrifos will probably be banned entirely in the near future.*

Key Recommendations

Governor Ige

- *Ensure resources and interdepartmental cooperation and sufficient budget to undertake needed additional health and agricultural data gathering.*

Kaua'i Legislative Delegation

- *Secure \$3-million from next year's legislature to fund the studies and monitoring that are needed.*

Department of Agriculture

- *Expand the Pesticide Advisory Committee and broaden its mission to establish new state standards for chronic, low level, cumulative exposures.*
- *Undertake a high level review of current pesticide laws and strengthen them.*
- *Improve the Good Neighbor Program*
- *Establish a more data informed buffer zone policy and use “green screens”.*

- *Initiate a drift monitoring program.*
- *Improve rapid response when there appears to be a problem.*
- *Require mandatory medical checks for applicators and field workers.*
- *Add inspectors and enforce all label laws.*
- *Improve geographic identifiers*
- *Increase registration pesticide sales.*

County of Kaua`i

- *Select a Mayor's representative to serve on HDOA's Pesticide Advisory Committee.*
- *Review the use of pesticides in county-controlled places.*
- *Increase public notification of county pesticide applications.*

Department of Health

- *Initiate surface and near-shore water monitoring and air, soil, and dust sampling.*
- *Update critical health surveillance data.*

Department of Land & Natural Resources

- *Test terrestrial and aquatic life for pesticides and ensure monitoring of wetland habitats and bird sanctuaries.*

Department of Education

- *Monitor the air at Kaua`i's schools.*
- *Institute voluntary blood and urine tests.*
- *Set up a mandatory pesticide education program.*

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

- *Monitor ponds where traditional salt gathering is practiced.*
- *Incorporate this analysis into the County's Salt Ponds Master Planning process.*

Kaua`i Department of Water

- *Test for chlorpyrifos.*

Contacts & Deadlines

- Report and appendices are at:
www.accord3.com/pg1000.cfm
- Comments can be submitted by e-mail to:
jffcomments@gmail.com
- Close of public comment period: April 8, 2016, 5pm.