



The Legislature

State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

NEWS RELEASE – for immediate release

March 16, 2016

Senate Media Contact: Jill Kuramoto 808-586-6261

House Media Contact: Carolyn Tanaka 808-586-6133

JOINT STATEMENT FROM KAUA'I LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION ON KAUA'I'S JOINT FACT FINDING STUDY GROUP

At the outset, we wish to offer our sincere thanks to all members of the Joint Fact Finding Study Group (JFFSG): Adam Asquith, PhD; Lee Evslin, MD; Gerardo Rojas Garcia, MS; Sarah Styan, PhD; Kathleen West-Hurd, PhD; Douglas Willmore, MD; Kawika Winter, PhD; Louisa Wooten; Roy Yamakawa; and facilitator Peter Adler for their unselfish and dedicated service in developing and releasing their draft report on March 10, 2016, entitled "Pesticide Use By Large Agribusiness on Kaua'i".

We fully support the efforts of the JFFSG, and are confident that during the comment period up through the release of the final report, that the JFFSG's recommendations will be prioritized, further refined and defined, to the point that appropriate funding can be requested to address specific recommendations in the final report as we are further informed that the JFFSG's total requested amount of some \$3 million dollars is to fund the JFFSG's recommendations through several years.

In the immediate future, we are aware that two of the JFFSG's recommendations, water quality studies and air monitoring studies, can be funded through the Department of Agriculture (DOA). Additionally, the DOA is attempting to fill three (3) additional inspector positions on the Island of Kaua'i as soon as possible.

On March 1, 2016, Senator Kouchi attended a town meeting in Waimea with Department of Agriculture Chair Scott Enright and Department of Health Director Virginia Pressler, MD, to receive further input from the community. The attendance of Chair Enright and Director Pressler at the Waimea Town Meeting and their continued active and tireless efforts have reinforced our faith that although the State of Hawai'i may have some questions as to certain aspects of the draft report, the State of Hawai'i has clearly taken the efforts of the JFFSG to heart.

The public is invited to submit its comments on the draft findings and recommendations from March 10, 2016 through April 8, 2016, with a final report to be issued on April 15, 2016.

March 16, 2016

Page 2 of 2

The Kaua'i Delegation includes Senate President, Senator Ronald D. Kouchi (S Dist. 8 - Kaua'i, Ni'ihau), and Representatives James Tokioka (H Dist. 15 - Wailua Homesteads, Hanamaulu, Lihue, Puhi, Old Koloa Town, Omao), Derek Kawakami (H Dist. 14 - Hanalei, Princeville, Kilauea, Anahola, Kapaa, Wailua), and Daynette Morikawa (H Dist. 16 - Niihau, Lehua, Koloa, Waimea).

###