

Peter S. Adler, PhD

The ACCORD3.0 Network

2471 Manoa Road Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Email: padleraccord@gmail.com Web: www.accord3.com



Joint Fact Finding Study Group on Genetically Modified Crops and Pesticides on Kaua'i

Update #5

November 4, 2015



1. Where We Are Now

The JFF Study Group is in its third of four phases. Phase-1 involved organizing and question-framing. Phase-2 focused on the search for local data sets and the gathering of pertinent national and international literatures.

In Phase-3 we are formulating and refining our findings for the central questions we are asking which are: (1) Are there detectable and measurable human or environmental health impacts on Kaua'i associated with GM crop production? (2) If the answer is a possible "yes", what are the documented health or environmental impacts on Kaua'i, and how strong is the evidence? (3) And if there is a possible "yes" to the above, what should be done?

Even more specifically, we are seeking to answer these questions with the best information we can find, asking:

1. Quantitatively, what is the actual agricultural “footprint” the seed companies occupy and farm?
2. What pesticides do they use, in what quantities, where, and how often? Also, what are the characteristics of those pesticides, and what is their potential to move off fields and into communities and the environment?
3. What is Kaua‘i’s overall health picture and, more specifically, especially on the West side, what do we know about the incidences of cancers, birth defects, pulmonary illnesses, and neurodevelopmental problems?
4. Environmentally, what factual evidence is there of pesticide damages to Kaua‘i’s flora and fauna, both terrestrial and aquatic?

In Phase-4, we will finalize our recommendations, post them for public comments, and hold a public meeting to take factual corrections or additional information we may have missed.

2. Invitational “Listening” Sessions

The nine members of the Joint Fact Finding Group along with the project team have spent a considerable amount of time asking detailed questions to specific individuals and groups. These include physicians, County and State agency representatives, former EPA officials, environmental scientists, Native Hawaiians, journalists, seed company critics, seed company leaders, West Side community members, and many others. These listening sessions have been enormously helpful to shape questions and direct us to important sources of information.

3. What We Will Cover in our Preliminary and Final Reports

The JFF intends to produce three documents: a Main Report; a companion Reader’s Guide of a more educational nature for those who may not be fully familiar with the topics; and a short FAQ piece that responds to many of the questions raised at the start of the JFF process.

While the outline of the JFF’s Final Report has not been fully finalized, readers can expect to see the following:

- An Executive Summary
- Project Background
- Caveats and Limitations to the Report
- A Summary of General Findings
- Specific Findings on Kauai’s GM Agriculture and Pesticide Usage
- Specific Findings on Certain Human Health Impacts we have Studied
- Specific Findings on Regulation and Oversight
- A chapter on the Waimea Canyon School Incidents
- A brief write up of the Emerging Glyphosate Debate
- Our Recommendations
- References Consulted

4. Anticipated Schedule to Completion

Our goal is to complete and submit our final report not later than the end of January 2016. While the schedule must remain flexible, we are working towards the following deadlines:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| November | JFF meetings and JFF subcommittee work. |
| December 30 th | Post the JFF’s Preliminary Findings and Recommendations. We will welcome feedback on the following: (1) <i>Factually what is missing or wrong in the Findings</i> and (2) <i>Comments on recommendations and, if different, the factual basis for proposed changes or additions.</i> ” |
| January 14 th | Public Meeting to take same kind of feedback as above. |
| January 31 st | Submission of Final Report to DOA and Mayor. |

Project Website

<http://www.accord3.com/pg1000.cfm>