

EACP Committee

From: Becca Chopra <becca@thechakras.org>
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2020 10:48 AM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT INTEGRATED PEST AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY

Aloha Honorable Councilmembers:

I'm writing to ask you to vote in favor of INTEGRATED PEST AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY.

There is increasing liability for the county to be using products that harm people and animals and the land as well. Please do your job and protect us.

Many say Roundup and other chemical weedkillers are the best products to use because they are the cheapest and easiest solution for the weed-killing job. But at what cost? Have you calculated the cost of contaminating our 'aina? The cost of causing acute and chronic health problems for our keiki, pets and people? The cost of having county workers come down with cancer? The cost of lawsuits from workers or others exposed to the spray?

Herbicides like Roundup not only destroy weeds, leaving dead brown foliage that mars the beauty of parks and roadsides, but they are cumulative and contribute to the ill health of all the island's inhabitants. We need to make every effort to eliminate them as fast as we can.

Data has been emerging that point to various health and environmental consequences resulting from glyphosate/Roundup use. These include an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, genetic damage, neurological impacts, water contamination, harm to amphibians, fish and coral, and increasing weed resistance.

I ask you to vote for INTEGRATED PEST AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY that will use already tested alternative weed control equipment, products, and techniques. Maui has been on the forefront with pilot park projects with Beyond Pesticides, and our state highways have also shown great success in using safe, organic weed control methods as well.

Now, Maui has the chance to be on the forefront of Integrated Pest and Environmental Management island-wide.

Please vote to make our environment safer for people, pets, wildlife and waterways.

Mahalo,
Becca Chopra
Kihei, HI