

EACP Committee

From: Chris Kinzle <Chris.Kinzle@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 10:00 AM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: Bill for an Ordinance Establishing Chapter 2.50 MCC Relating to Pesticide and Fertilizer Use on County Property
Attachments: GCSAA County of Maui - Pesticide Use Ordinance 10.07.19.pdf; Cheng pesticide statement 2.50 20200907.pdf

Forwarding email letters that came into our department.

Thank you.

Chris Kinzle

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County of Maui
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Our Mission: "Provide safe, satisfying and cost effective recreational opportunities for the residents of and visitors to Maui County"

September 07, 2020

Re: Maui County's Bill for an Ordinance Establishing Chapter 2.50 MCC Relating to Pesticide and Fertilizer Use on County Property.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am providing my opinions, as an individual, on Maui County's Bill for an Ordinance Establishing Chapter 2.50 MCC Relating to Pesticide and Fertilizer Use on County Property. I am currently an Associate Extension Specialist in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. My job and responsibility are to conduct applied research, and provide extension education and services to turfgrass and landscape pest management industries statewide in Hawaii (see my UH Lab website at: <https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/cheng/>).

My Ph.D. degree is Environmental Science, and I am proud to say that I do very much care for Hawaii's world-class environment and landscape which we all call home. Although in my classes and seminars I always emphasize integrated pest management approach utilizing cultural and biological control practices wherever possible, I also make it clear that in many systems, modern and low-risk chemicals are still the most effective and efficient means to control weeds, insect pests, plant pathogens, nematodes, and more. I consider herbicides, applied when label instructions are strictly followed, the appropriate way to control weeds in public lands as well as other lands. If herbicides are banned, it will be very difficult for Maui County to find alternative weed management means that can provide equal effectiveness and efficiency. Further, much more Maui County personnel time will be required to manage weeds if chemical herbicides are banned.

Currently I am also coordinating CTAHR's IR-4 Program, i.e. Specialty Crop Pest Management Program. Through working on this program, I am fully aware of how many steps are required before any pesticides, including herbicides, can be registered to use in Hawaii. These steps involve approvals from USDA, EPA, and HDOA. Research data on efficacies and residues in crop tissues are required too. All these activities are in place to ensure pesticides, including herbicides, are safe to use when label instructions are strictly followed. HDOA and CTAHR routinely conduct pesticide application trainings and certifications to ensure State, County, and private applicators can follow label instructions and other USDA, EPA, and HDOA regulations.

To summarize, I do not recommend Maui County to ban pesticide use on County property for 2 main reasons: 1) alternative weed management means that can provide equal effectiveness and efficiency of chemical herbicides are not readily available; and 2) modern pesticides are considered safe to use when label instructions are strictly followed.

Respectfully submitted by,



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September 8, 2020

Maui County Council
Kalana O Maui Building, 8th floor
200 S. High St.
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Subject: Opposition to 2.50 – Maui County Pesticide Use Ordinance

Commenter:

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is the professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain the game's most valuable resource — the golf course. The golf industry recognizes the association as a key contributor in elevating the game and business. GCSAA represents nearly 19,000 members in 72 countries and 99 affiliated chapters including the Hawaii Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the recent ordinance curtailing the use of pesticides for turf, landscape and outdoor pest management.

We empathize with the County of Maui's concerns regarding pesticide use. However, we strongly disagree with the recent ordinance looking to curtail and, in some instances, halt pesticide uses on County property including Waiehu Golf Course.

The ordinance has specifically targeted golf course usage while giving exemptions to commercial agriculture, disinfectants, insect repellents, rat and rodent control, swimming pool supplies and general use paints and stains.

Through the ordinance, the County of Maui has indicated that its ok to use pesticides on crops that humans consume and products that they use in domiciles, but not for turfgrass use on a golf course in which humans have limited contact with.

As you are aware, Waiehu is currently in the middle of a renovation project spearheaded by GCSAA Class A Superintendent Todd Allen. Nine greens have been renovated with SeaStar paspalum with the remaining nine scheduled for May of 2020. This is an extensive project for a course that hosts upward of 65,000 rounds annually and is a major time and financial commitment.

Todd has done an exemplary job on the project placing a major focus on environmental sustainability during the renovation. Todd, as with other superintendents throughout the Hawaiian Islands, employs Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies at Waiehu. IPM aims to reduce conventional pesticide use, when feasible, by using a combination of tactics to control pests, including cultural, biological, genetic, and chemical controls. Objectives include reducing pest management expenses, conserving energy, and reducing the risk of pesticide exposure to people, animals, and the environment. More

information on IPM is available by viewing the Hawaii Golf Maintenance Best Management Practices Guide at www.hawaiigolfbmp.org.

Additionally, golf course superintendents use only pesticides that have gone through rigorous testing in the United States and are registered for use by the state of Hawaii. These products are shown to be safe when used according to the label. Superintendents go through extensive training and education related to good safety practices with chemical applications on the golf course.

A complete pesticide ban on golf course property is unnecessary, non-sustainable and in the long-term, not financially feasible for Waiehu. Studies show that all organic management of golf facilities is costly, labor intensive and ultimately produces playing conditions that are not desirable for golfers. Healthy turfgrass also minimizes and prevents the migration of nonpoint source pollutants into ground, surface, and coastal waters.

For Waiehu to stay competitive in the marketplace, it needs to be on a level playing field with other facilities throughout the island.

In closing, we urge you to consider a long-term exemption for pesticide use at Waiehu while continuing to use a responsible IPM Program (including the use of herbicides and pesticides when warranted) aimed at providing safe and healthy turf and open spaces at and around the golf course.

I thank you for your time and consideration and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me below.

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