

EACP Committee

From: Faith Chase <faith@farmersvoicehawaii.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 6:43 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: EACP 9/8/20 Testimony - Faith Chase
Attachments: EACP Testimony 9820 Faith Chase.pdf

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Faith Chase
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September 8, 2020

Maui County Council Environmental, Agriculture and Cultural Preservation Committee
Chair Council member Shane Sinenci

RE: EACP-1 CC 16-37

Aloha Chair Sinenci & Committee Members,

I am writing to **express support for EACP-1**, Integrated Pest and Environmental Management on County Property.

In staying close to this issue I have helped organized and was a marshall in three of the five anti-gmo marches we held, while GMO's brought the people together it was in fact the chemical cocktails that we were advocating against as well.

I was once in a rental owned by a Maui Land & Pine lead operator who so willingly used pineapple industry pesticides on his personal property. The experience has forever haunted me as it was like Anthrax and myself and my two children at the time couldn't get out of the house and off the property fast enough. This experience has stayed with me and has forever reminded me to stay the course in finding solutions to excessive and dangerous pesticide use.

While I am no longer a member, it is worthy to note that Hawai'i Farmers Union United Maui Haleakala Chapter, the largest farmers union chapter, pushed forward a pesticide policy that outlined cautionary principles that ought to be considered today as that organization has fluctuated from 800 to 1200 members annually.

In response to the golf industry lead fellow calling in from Las Vegas, I would like to remind this council body that in the early 90's a proposed Hana gold course was being voted on and public testimony from the remote area continued into the evening. Twenty three members of a generational fishing family came to testify, members from ages 3 to 73. The main concern for this large family and the community was about the potential dangerous pesticide golf course run off into the nearby coastlines. This was a grave concern for the large family that relied on the surrounding fishing grounds for subsistence living.

In response to the testimony from Mr. Hoffman from the State of Hawai'i administrator of Plant Industry, I would say one thing, while I am not sure on all state and federal hierarchy of authority, I will say this, it would behoove anyone who is listening to read all the testimonies in eComment and honor "home rule".

One area of positive interest is the growing number of weed whackers that have been receiving beeping horns of positive community feedback. Perhaps an online space can be created so Highway and County workers can read compliments in a way that lets them conduct their work without them having to lift their hands and wave from the weed eaters that needs two hands to operate.

Sincerely, *Faith Chase*

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Faith Chase
Editor

FARMERS VOICE HAWAII