

## EACP Committee

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**From:** Lee Evslin <levslin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 12:42 PM  
**To:** EACP Committee  
**Subject:** EACP-1: INTEGRATED PEST AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY  
**Attachments:** In Support EACP-1.docx

Please accept my testimony in support of this important proposed legislation.

Lee A. Evslin, M.D.  
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**I am writing in strong support of EACP-1: INTEGRATED PEST AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY**

I have lived and worked on Kaua`i as a pediatrician and hospital/medical group CEO since 1979. I also served for fourteen months in 2014-15 on a state -sponsored task force examining possible health consequences of pesticide use on Kaua`i.

The evidence is rapidly growing that we as physicians, and our regulatory bodies, have greatly underestimated the danger of pesticides. In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics published an important policy statement. The opening lines stated that there is growing concern about the adverse health effects of chronic low level exposure to pesticides for the unborn, infants, and children. This was an eye opener for pediatricians. We have all been trained about actual poisoning from drinking or being sprayed with a pesticide, but most of us had little training or sufficient concern about the low levels of exposure a person might get from the spraying in parks and yards or the pesticides found in our food.

In the last five years there has been an alarming explosion of studies presenting strong evidence that chronic low level pesticide exposure is associated with health problems including developmental problems such as autism and ADHD, respiratory problems such as asthma, multiple types of cancer, and adverse changes to the bacteria living in and on our bodies.

Although all pesticides are inherently toxic and should be avoided in areas that people congregate, I am going to use Roundup as an example of the dangers. Roundup is one of the most commonly used pesticides in the world and in most counties is also the most commonly used pesticide in the

maintenance of parks and roadways. Monsanto has stated for years that it is one of safest pesticides available, that its safety has been proven by hundreds of studies, that it passes rapidly and unchanged from the body and that it is also quickly broken down in the soil when sprayed.

A closer examination of these statements reveals that the vast majority of the studies showing safety were done decades ago, were paid for by Monsanto, were based on technologies which are not nearly as sophisticated as those currently in use, and most of these studies are not even available for public review. The overwhelming evidence in hundreds of recent studies, many done in the past five years, shows toxicity of Roundup to almost all life forms, including humans. Other studies have shown that Roundup can persist in soil for up to a year. Roundup may pass quickly from the body but our exposure to it from spraying and from the food we eat is almost constant so most Americans have some Roundup in our bodies most of the time. The effects of Roundup on our cells and genetic material is just coming to light as well as the effect of Roundup on the billions of bacteria that colonize our bodies. Evidence that Roundup effects these bacteria (it is patented as an antibiotic) is coming at the same time as we are learning that upsetting the ratios of those bacteria can have serious health consequences.

We as physicians and our elected officials need to join forces and do our best to minimize pesticide exposure whenever possible. Our public needs to feel confident that children playing in parks and walking on roadways are not exposed to pesticides. Parks unfortunately have posed a particular danger to small children as they get the pesticides on their hands and clothing, track it into their houses, put their hands in their mouths and are much more susceptible to harm because of their small size and developing brains and bodies.

The evidence of harm from pesticide exposure is becoming all too clear. Please help protect our keiki.

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