

Pesticide Regulation and Clean Water Town Hall Meetings

Four meetings were held across the North Shore and Windward Oahu regarding pesticides, storm water, and cesspools. Delegates from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and significant numbers of neighbors arrived to share their thoughts and concerns on these topics.

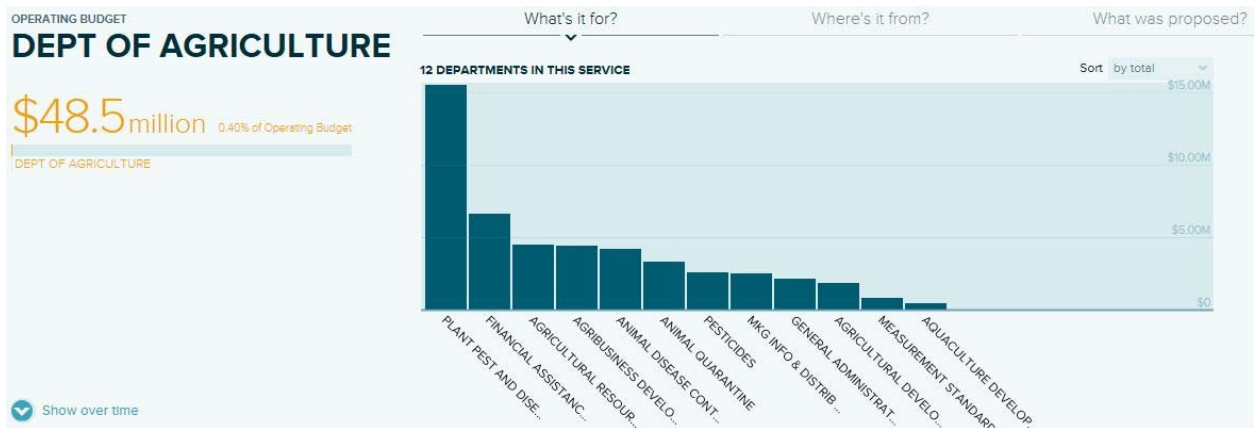


For more information on cesspools, please go to our cesspools webpage for an update on the new State income tax credits for cesspool upgrades, who may qualify and how the program works. Surfrider provided a presentation regarding the significance of pollution delivered to our watersheds via storm water run-off. While cesspools and storm water run-off were discussed, the main issue of the meetings turned out to be the pesticides.

As with anything, the key is to find balance between safety for agricultural workers and their neighbors while also ensuring that the crops will not be harmed by pests. However, the officials indicated that most of the complaints for exposure they receive are from homes, not necessarily farms. The farms need as many “weapons” in their arsenal as they can to protect their crops – and they must rotate so that the pests do not build up a tolerance. Further, the officials state that most of the pesticide residue build-up is from lingering pesticides used in the sugar cane days.

Tom Matsuda (head of Dept. of Ag Pesticides Branch) always touts “The Label is the Law”. The labels on pesticides spell out in great detail exactly how the lay person is to use the pesticide. Any use outside of the perimeters of the label is illegal. For example, the label may prohibit application under certain weather conditions or using high-pressure sprays or certain nozzles.

One major issue the Dept of Ag has against it is that it only receives .04% of the annual budget. The past few years, the Dept of Ag had a 40% loss of manpower due to budgeting. Until a recent un-freeze in hiring, there has been only one inspector per island. Currently, they are working on filling 6 inspector positions as well as 2 education specialist positions that the legislature approved.



(More information can be found here: <http://openbudget.hawaii.gov/#/operating/DEPT+OF+AGRICULTURE/>)

One of the key concerns has been pesticide drift near schools and homes. There is a 100' determination from WPS information on exposure to workers when application is going on for a specific product. However, as always, look at the label as many are silent on buffer zones; except for a 25' water way buffer zone.

Currently, only nine States have passed buffer zone requirements; please see the image below.

	State	Aerial application prohibition:	Ground application
1	Alabama	400' of schools	N/A
2	Arizona	¼ mile of schools or day care facilities for odoriferous pesticides profenofos, sulprofos, def, merphos and other pesticides with similar odor characteristics. Also highly toxic pesticides within ¼ mile of school or day care facility.	¼ mile of schools or day care facilities for odoriferous pesticides profenofos, sulprofos, def, merphos and other pesticides with similar odor characteristics. Also highly toxic pesticides within ¼ mile of school or day care facility.
3	California	N/A	300' of schools for Methyl bromide applications
4	Louisiana	1,000' of schools (pub. or pvt. Day or residential and elementary to secondary). Except for mosquito control.	N/A
5	Maine	1,000' of schools unless the wind is between 2 and 10 mph	N/A
6	Massachusetts	150' from schools	N/A
7	N. Hampshire	Aerial application cannot occur when children are commuting to and from school and when there is outdoor activity. Prohibits aerial applic. in sensitive areas, day care centers and school buildings and property, playgrounds and athletic fields. Distance is subject to aerial application permit.	N/A
8	N. Jersey	300' horizontal around schools. For control of gypsy moth; 2 mile restriction for kindergarten – 8 th grade and 2 ¼ mile of grades 9 – 12 or when students are commuting to and from school.	250' from school property with equipment operating at greater than 60 psi.
9	N. Carolina	300' of schools when occupied.	N/A

State School Pesticide Laws as of February 12, 2015
Document from California Department of Pesticides
RECAP:
9 Schools with buffer zone related to agriculture application.
•6 have aerial only prohibitions (AL, LA, ME, MA, NH, NC)
•2 have aerial and ground prohibitions. (AZ, NJ)
•1 has ground prohibition. (CA)

Mahalo nui to our town hall panel for engaging our communities at our town hall meetings:

Scott Enright Chairman, Dept. of Agriculture
Tom Matsuda Pesticides Program Manager, Dept. of Agriculture
Darryl Lum Clean Water Branch, Dept. of Health
Mark Tomomitsu Waste Water Branch, Dept. of Health
Sina Pruder Waste Water Branch, Dept. of Health
Fenix Grange Hazard Evaluation & Emergency Response, Dept. of Health
Stuart Coleman Surfrider
Rafael Bergstrom Surfrider

Mahalo nui to our community members for participating at our series of meetings on pesticides and clean water. These meetings are an important first step and our

office cannot mahalo everyone enough for staying committed to these important issues.

Meetings were held

Ahuimanu	Sept 23
Waialua	Sept 29
Hauula	Oct 1
Waialua	Nov 10