



HDOA Protecting Our Water

November 13, 2024

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson



HDOA and NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

- **Climate change has led to increased and episodic frequency and magnitude of extreme rainfall;**
 - Land management programs have proven to reduce storm runoff.
 - Legislation to assign liability to landowners with 10,000 or more acres for damages from runoff.
 - Farmers and ranchers receive funding from federal agencies to manage and capture stormwater.
- **Pollution from nature or humans – eruptions, extreme clouds of urban pollution deposited into the water systems; PFAS, gasoline;**
 - Detected at point source and treated
 - Migratory birds deposit viruses into the water system; this is thought to be how the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was introduced into dairy herds.

The Pesticide Regulations

Process to introduce new treatments

- **New pesticides registered for use by farmers/ranchers**
 - ✓ Can take over 10 years to review an application
 - ✓ Pros - protect the groundwater
 - ✓ Cons - process takes up to 3X longer than on US mainland; globally, process may not be regulated. The pest may have built up a resistance or evolved.
- **Groundwater review process**
 - ✓ HDOA Pesticides Branch has approved 13 new active ingredients (AI) since 2018.
 - ✓ Hawaii is the only state in the US that requires a groundwater review at the level, scope and detail and takes longer.
 - ✓ Soil leachability data that is used is delineated by the US Geological Survey in the initial groundwater review model. (as opposed to the most leachable soil, such as volcanic cinder).
 - ✓ HDOA has a contract with UH Manoa Water Resources Research Center; staff has transferred which caused delays with review.
 - ✓ Recognize the need for tools to remain competitive; must balance need with environmentally defensible decisions to license products, as required by statute.



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