



**Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides
March 11, 2026**

A video recording of this meeting can be found online by visiting this website:
<https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/acpmtgs/>

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was called to order on March 11, 2026, at 9:04 am by Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB) Manager for the Plant Industry / Pesticides Branch, Esther Riechert. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and in-person from:

*State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Boardroom
1428 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814.*

Members Present In-Person:

Steven Russo, Pesticide Industry Representative
Esther Riechert, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity Representative

Members Virtually Present: Roll call (All members were alone)

Melvin Tokuda, Department of Health Representative
Dr. Qing Li, University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and
Human Resources Representative
Judson Laird, Diversified Ag Industry Representative
Janet Ashman, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Representative
Nicholas Testa, Structural Pest Control Industry Representative
Matthew Lyum, Landscape Professional Representative

Absent:

Troy Sakihara, Department of Land and Natural Resources Representative

Vacant:

Environmental Organization Representative
Citizen Group Representative

Department of the Attorney General (DAG) Present In-Person:

Jennifer Waihee-Polk

Others Present In-Person:

Adam Yamamoto, HDAB Supervising Environmental Health Specialist

Wei Zhang, HDAB Environmental Health Specialist

Karin Bolczyk, Administrative Assistant

Others Virtually Present:¹

None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 10/02/2024 MEETING

Public Testimony:

None

Board Discussion:

Member Riechert proposed to amend the minutes to include the names of those who voted.

Member Lyum proposed to amend the minutes to be more detailed, especially capturing the discussion on the active ingredients' proposal for restricted use status, information on alternative practices, study on beneficial insects, and the funding for the groundwater study that was for \$403,199.00.

Member Ashman agreed that there was a lot of discussion not mentioned in the minutes and there has been confusion over the vote.

Member Tokuda gave notification that they were no longer alone in the room, but ensured the other person could not hear or see any of this meeting and did not have any interest in it. DAG Waihee-Polk confirmed the meeting can proceed.

Member Tokuda asked for confirmation that pesticide's usage cannot be amended to be more restrictive such as the restricted use status should only be for uses under the UIC line or on soils with low percolation.

Member Riechert and member Ashman referred to the recording of the meeting for more details.

Vote: None; minutes need amendments and the vote will be deferred until the next meeting.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

No introduction since members have not changed since the last meeting except for Esther Riechert, Pesticides Branch, who was introduced earlier.

Committee discussion: None

¹ The identification of the public members is based on their sign-in name but are not verified.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

Comments: None

Committee discussion: None

V. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES

1. Proposal to cancel Special Local Needs HI 250005

Proposal presented as submitted: Esther Riechert, Pesticides Branch, summarized the request from the Pesticides Branch to cancel special local needs label Hawaii 2505 for Vikane EPA registration number 1015-78.

Esther Riechert corrected the proposal date from wrongly March 27th, 2027 to March 27th, 2026.

Adam Yamamoto, Acting Supervisor of the Registration and Education section, is present for any questions.

A special local needs label is a registration under Section 24C of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, allowing states to permit additional uses of federally registered pesticides to address specific localized pest issues. Vikane contains the active ingredient sulfuryl fluoride and is the primary and most widely used product for the fumigation of structures to treat termites and other pests. Vikane is a gas fumigate and has an aeration period that is determined by the volume of the structure. SLN, Special Local Needs Hawaii 2505, allowed the California Aeration Procedure, also known as CAP, as an additional aeration procedure in the state of Hawaii.

Vikane is a gas fumigate and has an aeration period that is determined by the volume of the structure. SLN, Special Local Needs Hawaii 2505, allowed the California Aeration Procedure, also known as CAP, as an additional aeration procedure in the state of Hawaii. The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, informed the department that it cannot support the SLN registration of Hawaii 2505, since it did not meet the requirements of a 24C registration, and requested the state to withdraw and cancel the SLN use.

Public Testimony: None

Committee Discussion:

The committee discussed two alternative ways to re-register the product and continue using the CAP process. One method is the registrant resubmits their registration to EPA as section 3 which would take several years; and the second method is considered a 24a registration which will need changes to the rules and potentially the law and will take possible 2 years. Costs are unclear.

1 There was discussion on whether EPA's concern was with the SLN language
2 superseding the federal language and if correcting the language would allow the SLN to
3 be viable. Yamamoto explained that the language was not the source of EPA's concern,
4 but that the alternative application method, CAP, did not fulfill the requirements of what
5 a 24C is allowed for which is for additional uses and sites for a product.

6 Member Laird inquired about how the loss of the SLN would hurt the industry. Members
7 Russo, Testa, and Riechert confirmed that applicators can still use the current product
8 label, but would not be able to use CAP. CAP eliminated the use of SCBA, increased
9 time efficiency, and lowered personal risk. The current situation is to cancel the SLN as
10 a State or EPA will issue a cancelation.

11 Yamamoto informed everybody that the manufacturer and registrants of Vikane,
12 Douglas Products, already notified EPA in writing and DAB on March 4th, 2026, that
13 they withdrew the SLN. Member Russo pointed out, this makes a committee vote
14 unnecessary.

15 It was clarified that the SLN was valid when the State initially issued it until EPA
16 reviewed it within their 90-day review time period. During this period, applicators could
17 have used the SLN.

18 The committee agreed to future meetings to discuss the possible bills for 2027
19 legislature season and to discuss proposed amendments to the State's rules or laws to
20 allow use of the CAP procedure.

21 The committee and Pesticides Branch agreed to notify all applicators and licensed
22 dealers of the withdrawn SLN. Member Russo will also inform members of the Hawaii
23 Pest Control Association.

24 Violations will be enforced one week after notice was given by the Branch.

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26 Vote: A vote was not needed since the registrant withdrew the registration.

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29 VI. OLD BUSINESS

30 None

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33 VII. NEW BUSINESS

34 None

35 __0__ presented new business item.

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37 Public Testimony: None

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39 Board Discussion:

40 Member Ashman proposed increased frequency of future meetings, updates on older
41 agenda topics, and setting up new discussion points on the agenda and committee
42 meetings on a regular basis.

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1 Vote: Approved; unanimously. Frequency shall be 2-4 times a year.

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3 VII. ADJOURNMENT

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5 Motion to adjourn: Riechert/Ashman
6 The meeting was terminated at 9:42 am

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8
9 Respectfully submitted,

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11
12
13 Karin Bolczyk