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Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
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Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Comm. on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, February 12, 2024
1:31 PM Via Videoconference

RE: **SB2366** Pollinator Protections - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we are in strong support of SB2366, which classifies neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides and establishes a list of chemicals that belong to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

Neonics have the ability to kill bees with extraordinarily low levels of exposure. Impacts to our pollinators endanger our local food production. The USDA estimates that 1 in 3 bites of food rely upon pollinators.

Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world. While they were initially introduced as less harmful than older insecticides, research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts.

Neonics pose significant effects on insects, soil and water. Neonicotinoids often exceed existing regulatory guidelines in surface waters and represent a significant risk to water quality and diverse aquatic and terrestrial fauna that these ecosystems support. There is currently no reporting of neonic use in Hawai'i because it is not classified as an RUP. SB 2366 would reclassify neonics as RUPs would therefore allow for better oversight and reporting.

Efforts to reduce the harm posed to communities, pollinators, and our environment from neonic use in Hawai'i starts with inclusion of them as RUPs.