

PO Box 235191
Honolulu, HI 96823
kimcoco@kimcoco.com

KIM COCO IWAMOTO, ESQ.

Hawaii Board of Education
Community Meeting
Leilehua High School Library
Monday, June 24, 2019

Testimony in Strong Support of banning the use of glyphosate on DOE campuses

Dear Board Members,

In 2015, I wrote a Civil Beat column regarding the State of Hawaii's responsibility to protect students, teachers, administrators and other campus personnel from the harms of pesticides - especially since the state mandates student attendance and directs the working conditions of state employees who work on DOE campuses. (See attached.)

I concluded my column by citing the 2014 Hawaii Supreme Court case, Van Ness v. State Department of Education. In its unanimous decision, the Court held that Mr. Van Ness, who was a DOE teacher at Lahainaluna High School, should receive "compensation for the aggravation of his asthma resulting from his exposure to vog at work."

The Court outlined all the ways the DOE could have lessened Mr. Van Ness' exposure to vog, but the DOE failed to implement those safeguards - resulting in its liability to provide compensation to the injured teacher.

Today the BOE has ample knowledge and opportunity to safeguard its employees and students from glyphosate-based herbicides, which have already been adjudicated harmful. Please ban the use of glyphosate on DOE lands and mandate the use of organic land management practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Coco Iwamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.