



## **WSWS Officer and Committee Report 2016 Spokane, WA (for Coeur d'Alene, ID)**

**Office or Committee Name:** Legislative  
**Officer or Chairperson Name:** James Leary  
**Date of Preparation (include year):** July 26, 2016

### **Committee Activities during the year:**

The Legislative Committee was newly formed in April 2016, The Chair failed to hold meeting and delegate objectives of the charter to committee members that includes the following actions:

1. Develop and maintain a contact list of individuals within each of the western states that can provide updates on legislative issues within that state.
2. Contact western state legislative representatives on a bi-yearly basis for information on new legislative items relevant to the membership.
3. On a bi-yearly basis, summarize all legislative decisions or issues in the western states and prepare a report for the Board of Directors and membership. This report will be uploaded to the WSWS website and published in the newsletter. Reports shall be provided to the President prior to the summer Board of Directors meeting (July/August) and before the Board meeting prior to the annual WSWS meeting in March.

We are currently in search of the previous contact list. Once in our possession, we will use this to deliver a message in request for any pertinent legislation the WSWS should be aware of or engaged in.

As proxy please see some of the current issues in Hawaii with direct impact on agriculture and pest management.

#### *Hawaii legislative report*

*On January 6, 2016, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (NYSE:ALEX) ("A&B" or "Company") announced that it is transitioning out of farming sugar and will instead pursue a diversified agricultural model for its 36,000-acre Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company ("HC&S") plantation on Maui.*

*<http://hcsugar.com/2016/01/alexander-baldwin-announces-transition-hawaiian-commercial-sugar-company-diversified-farm-model/>*

*House Bill 2501 Requires that where an application has been made for a lease to continue a previously authorized disposition of water rights, a holdover may be authorized annually until the pending application for the disposition of water rights is finally resolved or for a total of three consecutive one-year holdovers, whichever occurs sooner.*

[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/bills/HB2501\\_CD1\\_.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/bills/HB2501_CD1_.pdf)

*A federal appeals court is weighing whether Hawaii counties have the right to regulate genetically modified crops and impose restrictions on how farmers apply pesticides. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in June 2016 in a string of cases involving regulations on genetically engineered agriculture in Kauai County, Hawaii County and Maui County.*

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/5f73cf\\_56e4e700de9ae57e7b709740824bbed4.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/5f73cf_56e4e700de9ae57e7b709740824bbed4.pdf)

<https://www.biofortified.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Bill-113-Draft-03-2012-2014.pdf>

*The Office of the County Clerk has certified that the Community Farmland Council has not collected the required amount of valid signatures needed to advance to the Council a petition to establish a program to acquire and lease agricultural lands, County Clerk Danny Mateo announced today. The Bill proposed for the county of Maui to use eminent domain granted under Section 46-1.5(6), (13) and (16) and Chapter 101, HRS to effectuate the purposes condemning land that meets the following criteria:*

*(1) currently used, or historically has been used for agricultural purposes,*

*(2) zoned interim, agricultural, rural, conservation or open space, and*

*(3) held by a landowner with an ownership of 1000 or more acres within the county of Maui either as of March 1, 2016, or at the time of acquisition by the county.*

<http://communityfarmland.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Community-Organic-Farmland-Initiative-Law-11.pdf>

*The final report of the Kauai Joint Fact Finding (JFF) Study Group titled “**PESTICIDE USE BY LARGE AGRIBUSINESSES ON KAUA’I**” was submitted to the Head of the Hawaii Dept of Agriculture and the office of the Mayor of Kauai on May 25, 2016. Mr. Roy Yamakawa, an original member of the nine-member group, resigned from the JFF Study Group on January 3, 2016. Mr. Gerardo Rojas and Dr. Sarah Styan resigned on April 8, 2016*

<https://jffkauai.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/jff-kauai-final-report1.pdf>

*State sued for alleged violations of Clean Water Act: DOH, ADC face lawsuit from Earthjustice  
Posted: July 26, 2016*

*Hawaii’s Department of Health and Agribusiness Development Corporation are both facing a lawsuit for allegedly polluting Kauai’s Westside waters. Earthjustice, an environmental law organization, notified ADC in August of its intent to sue in May when a few community organizations discovered ADC didn’t renew its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit last August. Representatives from the State Department of Agriculture said they wouldn’t be commenting on the lawsuit at this point. The Department of Health did not comment by press time. On behalf of those community groups — Na Kia’i Kai, Surfriider Foundation and Pesticide Action Network — Earthjustice has followed through on the letter of intent and announced the lawsuits on Monday.*

[http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/state-sued-for-alleged-violations-of-clean-water-act/article\\_7f47835a-e780-5bad-bb41-8c542988b9cd.html](http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/state-sued-for-alleged-violations-of-clean-water-act/article_7f47835a-e780-5bad-bb41-8c542988b9cd.html)

**Recommendations for Board Action:** none

**Budget Needs:** none

**Suggestions for the Future:**

We need a better system of member rotation and transferring information

**Current Committee Members:**

James Leary, [learyj@hawaii.edu](mailto:learyj@hawaii.edu)

Fred Raish, [fraish@alligare.com](mailto:fraish@alligare.com)

Patti Prasifka [plprasifka@dow.com](mailto:plprasifka@dow.com)

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** James Leary