



## OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 13, 2025

**In Reply Refer to:**

EPA Case No.: 44RNO-16-R9

Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson  
Office of the Chairperson  
Hawai'i Board of Agriculture  
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
sharon.k.hurd@hawaii.gov

**Re: Closure of EPA Case No. 44RNO-16-R9**

Dear Chairperson Hurd:

This letter is to notify you that the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has fully complied with the Informal Resolution Agreement (Agreement), dated May 29, 2019, reached between the HDOA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), relating to EPA Case No. 44RNO-16-R9. Accordingly, OECRC is closing the monitoring of the Agreement and the Complaint itself as of the date of this letter.

Pursuant to the Agreement, HDOA submitted reports and information demonstrating completion of the specific commitments set forth under the Agreement. Among other actions, HDOA implemented strategies to minimize pesticide exposure statewide, including but not limited to producing evidence demonstrating its commitment to create and implement a pesticide drift monitoring study (see Enclosure); implemented strategies to minimize harmful pesticides in the water; enhanced its pesticide complaints process; developed a reporting mechanism for restricted use pesticide (RUP) applicators; developed maps and an advisory for RUPs near school locations and school properties; developed and implemented a protocol for notifying the public and members of the agricultural community of the prohibition of all pesticides containing chlorpyrifos; and implemented required procedural safeguards relating to HDOA's notice of nondiscrimination and grievance procedures to process discrimination

complaints filed under federal nondiscrimination statutes.

Upon careful review, OECRC has determined that HDOA has fully complied with the Agreement and that closure of EPA Case No. 44RNO-16-R9 is appropriate.

Neither the conclusion of OECRC's monitoring of this Agreement nor the closing of this complaint affects HDOA's continuing responsibility to comply with Title VI or other federal nondiscrimination laws and EPA's regulation at 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. Nor does the complaint closure affect EPA's investigation of any other Title VI or other federal civil rights complaints or address any other matter not covered by this Agreement. This letter is not a formal statement of EPA policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such.

Thank you for your participation in this matter. EPA remains available to provide technical assistance regarding HDOA's obligations under federal nondiscrimination laws, with respect to its programs, services, and activities. Please feel free to contact V'Hesspa Glenn at 202-564-8029, or by email at [glenn.vhesspa@epa.gov](mailto:glenn.vhesspa@epa.gov), if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Anhthu Hoang  
Acting Director  
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance

Enclosure

cc: Ariadne Goerke  
Deputy Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights and Finance Law Office

Amy Miller  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator  
Acting Deputy Civil Rights Official  
EPA Region 9

Suzanne Andrews  
Regional Counsel  
EPA Region 9