



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: April 13, 2012

12-013

**NEW REPORT AVAILABLE ON DOH INVESTIGATION OF
PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION AT KILAUEA SUGAR MILL SITE**

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office has released a new report on the state-led investigation of the former Kilauea Sugar Pesticide Mixing Area, located off A'alona and Oka Streets in Kilauea, Kaua'i. The full report is available at <http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/hazard/index.html> in the "What's New" section.

As documented in the report, DOH received laboratory data from additional soil samples collected in August 2011, and test results confirm contamination from historic use of pesticides containing arsenic and dioxins. The majority of the contamination is limited to two residential lots and one commercial property.

To safeguard public health, the contaminated soil has been covered or fenced to prevent access. The affected property owners have been notified by DOH directed to take extra precautions to minimize exposures to contaminated soils (for example, to limit digging or playing in areas shown to be contaminated).

Removal of the affected soil is required to further protect human health and the environment, and minimize potential future exposure to pesticide contamination.

(more)

New Report Available on DOH Investigation of Pesticide Contamination at Kilauea Sugar Mill Site

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Gary Gill, DOH Deputy Director for Environmental Health, said: “The report helps us determine the best way to eliminate public exposure to contaminated soil and keep Kilauea safe for children, families and visitors. The state Department of Health is working closely with the County of Kaua‘i to coordinate response activities.”

Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. said: “I would like to thank the Department of Health for ensuring residents are thoroughly informed as the clean-up project moves forward. The safety and well being of our residents is our highest priority.”

Due to the urgency and complexity of the clean-up required, the state has requested federal assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 Emergency Response Program. This partnership will be in coordination with the County of Kaua‘i and the affected property owners; meetings with the county and affected property owners are scheduled to take place later this month.

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