

HERBICIDE

From the front page

The World Health Organization in March said the chemical is "probably carcinogenic," and testifiers expressed concern its use could be harming people's health and the environment.

Some cited examples of the county spraying the herbicide from moving trucks in areas where people walk.

"I will no longer stand and let you use my money to poison myself and you," said Paul Komura,

speaking from Ka'u.

Kelly Greenwell, a former County Council member, expressed regret for using the herbicide and said the county should consider banning it entirely. The bill doesn't prohibit private use.

"I recognize that it's time to start looking at another direction," he said. "I've been lucky I haven't gotten sick, but I know others probably have."

Some spoke

emotionally about the topic and portrayed the commonly used herbicide and Monsanto, which makes it, as public enemy No. 1.

To them, the product could be blamed for just about everything from the rise in cancer rates to the decline in fish populations.

"We can only depend on each other," said a woman from Waimea. "Take care of yourself and your land."

A spokesperson for Monsanto previously said

the product is safe if used as directed.

Department of Public Works Director Warren Lee has said the herbicide accounts for between 25 and 30 percent of weed control activities.

He warned banning its use could be costly.

If the bill is adopted, the county will have until July 1 to come up with an alternative.

While speaking with a reporter last week, Wille, who made use of

Roundup-resistant crops a central part of her push to restrict use of genetically modified crops on the island, dismissed the idea of establishing a pilot project to test alternative weed control methods.

"I think that's lame," she said. "I think that's a do-nothing and that would be an excuse to say we've done something when we haven't."

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Fishhook database offers insight into old Hawaii

By Nina Wu
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5/17/2015

The world's largest collection of Hawaiian fishhooks is now available for viewing and study via an online database. The digital treasure trove comprises more than 4,000 artifacts from the Bishop Museum's archaeology collections.

The fishhooks, excavated from three cultural sites in the Ka'u District of Hawaii island during the 1950s, reveal the varying design adaptations by Hawaiians over six centuries.

"Fishhooks have always been important for archaeologists looking at change over time," said Bishop Museum anthropologist Mara Mul-

rooney. "Cultural practitioners can gain inspiration from looking at ancient designs, educators can look to this database to learn more about ancient Hawaiian fishing practices and students of all ages will enjoy looking at these fishhooks."

The database, made possible by a

Please see FISHHOOKS, F7

A bone barbed fishhook, circa 1600 to 1800, from Waiyahukini Rockshelter, Ka'u, Hawaii island.

Bishop Museum archaeologist
cal excavations at Puu Alii, Ka

FISHHOOKS:

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grant from the Hawai'i Council For the Humanities, went online last month. Each entry offers four images against a black background, showing both sides of the fishhook, with and without scale measurements.

Mulrooney said the pilot project is part of the larger Ho'omaka Hou Research Initiative, which aims to use modern techniques to learn more from the museum's archaeology collections and foster collaborative international research.

NEXT, THE institution will digitize fishhook collections from other parts of the Pacific, including the Marquesas, the Society Islands and Nukuoro in the Caroline Islands of Micronesia.

The fishhooks, which typically measure less than an inch tall, were excavated by noted archaeologists Kenneth P. Emory, Yoshiko Sinoto and William Bonk between 1953 and 1959 in Ka'u.

The three sites — Puu Alii, Waiahukini Rockshelter and Makalei Rockshelter — offer a wealth of archaeological information dating from as early as A.D. 1300 to the mid-1800s. The items gathered there include the fishhooks as well as tools to make them and volcanic glass.

Sinoto, a trained archaeologist and Bishop Museum's senior anthropologist, classified Hawaiian fishhooks as one-piece (made from a single piece of material), two-piece and composite (multiple pieces). During the classification process, an archaic style of composite fishhook — a bonito trolling lure made from two shell



A pearl shell fishhook, circa 1300 to 1500, from the Puu Alii Dune site, Ka'u, Hawaii island, excavated by Bishop Museum and University of Hawaii archaeologists from 1953 to 1959.

Below, a two-piece bone fishhook from Hawaii island can be seen on display in Bishop Museum's Pacific Hall.



Yoshiko Sinoto sieves material recovered during archaeology, on Hawaii island in 1954.

Collection can be studied online

pieces— captured his attention, Mulrooney said, because it was exactly the same style as a hook he recovered in the Marquesas.

“He was able to see many similarities between the two groups of artifacts,” she said.

From that finding Sinoto derived his model for the initial settlement of the Hawaiian Islands.

Approximately a dozen of the fishhooks in the database are on permanent display in the museum's Pacific Hall, which explores the origins and cultures of Pacific islanders and their migration over the Pacific Ocean.

Researchers can examine moolelo, or oral stories, that relate to the artifacts and conduct comparative studies with fishhooks from other parts of Hawaii and across the Pacific.

One research affiliate, Kelley Esh, a doctoral student from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, for instance, is studying fish bones at the Ka'u sites to analyze the changes in the kinds of fish that people consumed through time, said Mulrooney.

MANY FISHHOOKS were made from shell, especially pearl shell, but most were made from bone. The two-piece bone fishhook was unique to Hawaii, said Mulrooney.

With the online database, research affiliates from abroad can now analyze the items without having to visit the museum.

“It opens the door to new possibilities in looking at change in the bigger picture of Hawaiian archaeology,” said Mulrooney. “In terms of conservation, we now have a digital record of each of these artifacts, which is really valuable to have.”



A bone point from a two-piece fishhook from Waihukini Rockshelter, Ka'u, Hawaii island.

COURTESY BISHOP MUSEUM



Handwritten notes in blue ink on the right side of the page, including the characters 'Waihukini' and 'Ka'u'.