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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

April 2, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**HOUSE BILL NO. 482 HD 2**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB482 HD 2. This bill amends Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, by establishing a position within the Department of Agriculture to manage the pesticide subsidy program. The Department supports this bill provided it does not affect the priorities of the Administration's budget.

Act 105 established a pesticide subsidy program within the Department effective from 2014 to 2019. The purpose of the program is to provide subsidies to coffee farmers for the purchase of pesticides containing Beauveria to control coffee berry borer. The act appropriated \$500,000 from general fund for this purpose and allowed for \$50,000 of the appropriation to be used to hire a manager of the program. The act did not create the position for this program. This bill will create the position so that the Department can hire a manager of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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April 2, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 482 HD 2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB is in support of HB 482 HD 2**, which establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the pesticide subsidy program.

Coffee is one of Hawaii's signature crops; one that helps bring fame and tourists to Hawaii. Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. While the full tally is yet to be made, farms on Hawaii Island have experienced deep losses. Some have failed. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the value of the remaining crop. CBB is a serious threat to Hawaii's agriculture industry and the state's economy. While CBB is battled worldwide, no other coffee growing origin shares Hawaii's high labor costs and restrictions on pesticides that may be used elsewhere to fight this destructive pest. This places the industry at a competitive disadvantage when compared to the rest of the coffee-growing world.

Fighting CBB is a priority in other coffee-producing countries. The USDA has expressed its support targeted toward research, education and mitigation. The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. A non-profit CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. CTAHR and HDOA have been responsive and effective in their combined efforts. Industry has committed countless private sector dollars and has leveraged both State and Federal funds. The State must continue to do its part.

A recent CTAHR economic analysis estimates FY2013 crop losses due to CBB at \$7.68 million, with a resultant \$571,000 annual loss in state tax revenues.

This establishment of the pesticide subsidy program manager should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.