

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 17, 2015**  
**2:45 P.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 414**

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

Chairperson Ruderman 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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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments: My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chairperson of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports This measure. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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March 15, 2015

To: Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Kona Coffee Farmers Association

Re: **HB482/HD2**, Scheduled for Hearing March 17, 2015 at 2:45 PM

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association, on behalf of its more than 300 members, **SUPPORTS HB482/HD2**.

Since 2010 when the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) was first found in West Hawaii County, the Kona Coffee Farmers Association has called for the direct operation by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture itself of pesticide subsidies to coffee farmers for their efforts to combat CBB. The funding for a full-time HDOA employee to manage this program will be an important step in building an effective subsidy program.

An effective HDOA managed subsidy program will be important in protecting the future viability of coffee production in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker, Chair

Legislative Committee

Kona Coffee Farmers Association



P.O. Box 5436, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, 96745 \* [info@konacoffeefarmers.org](mailto:info@konacoffeefarmers.org)



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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Smith	Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments: I whole heartedly support this Bill as a long time Kona Coffee farmer now battling the dreaded Coffee Berry Borer. The funding for a full-time HDOA employee to manage this program will be an important step in building an effective subsidy program. We need all the help we farmers can get. with aloha, Cecelia Smith

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March 17, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 482 HD 2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, 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.

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 482, HD2, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, which establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the Pesticide Subsidy Program. (HB 482, HD2)

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gloria Biven	Royal Kona Coffee Visitor Center Mill & Museum	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 482 which establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the pesticide subsidy program.

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn	Support	No

Comments: Members of the AGL committee, Please support this measure as a means to help prevent further movement of the CBB pest statewide. The State is in dire need of more inspecting personnel on the front lines. Sincerely James Kimo Falconer President Hawaii Coffee Growers Association

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Wayman	Hawaii Coffee Assoc	Support	Yes

Comments: Strong Support of HB482 The Coffee Berry Borer Beetle has placed a large burden on coffee farmers. The subsidy manager position afforded by this bill will allow coffee farmers to receive materials which are being subsidized by the State of Hawaii that are needed in the fight against CBB. Please support coffee farmers with your vote on this bill. Thank you, Jim Wayman

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ragone	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**HB482**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John C. Cross	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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