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State of Hawaii  
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Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 26, 2015  
1:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 482 HD 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB482 HD 1. 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. The Department would also request one amendment.

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 Beauvaria 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.

The Department would ask to make one amendment as follows: "The pesticide subsidy program manager shall possess a requisite level of knowledge and expertise in the areas of pesticides and program subsidy management necessary to carry out the duties of the position." We envision the position to focus more on the administrative duties of the subsidy program and hence a program management background would be of more use. Furthermore, our research has shown that this type of pesticide program is rather unique across the nation and we do not wish to limit the pool of applicants who could qualify for the position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 482 HD 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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 1**, 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.

**finance1-Kim**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:11 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jwayman@hicoffeeco.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB482 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM

**HB482**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Wayman	Hawaii Coffee Assoc	Support	Yes

Comments: The Hawaii Coffee Association is in Strong Support of HB 482. Industry's most serious problem is the fight against Coffee Berry Borer Beetle. There is a pending grant to provide assistance to farmers in purchasing Botanigard fungus treatment. This grant is contingent upon a position being created at the HDOA to administer the Botanigard subsidy program. We encourage the legislature to secure this most needed position. Thank you, Jim Wayman, President of the Hawaii Coffee Association.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:05 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB482 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM\*

**HB482**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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