



March 17, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY RE: HB482 HD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414, 2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Chamber of Commerce is in support of HB482 HD2 which establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the pesticide subsidy program.

The Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) is a significant threat to Hawaii's well established and growing coffee industry, a key agricultural industry for our state. Farms on Hawaii Island have already experienced deep losses from this pest and other islands' coffees are threatened as well as pests are carried between the islands. Therefore, the CBB is a serious threat to the state's agricultural economy and our coffee industry.

Fighting CBB needs to be a top agricultural priority for our state and we must continue to invest in research, education, and mitigation solutions to address this growing problem. We understand that 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 in one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

Agriculture has always been and continues to be important to: our state's economy (generating \$2.9 billion to the state's annual economy and directly and indirectly providing 42,000 jobs), our ability to sustain ourselves by growing local food, protecting our beautiful green and spaces; preserving our rural areas, and our quality of life. It is essential to support this industry and the crops that have created significant opportunities and returns for our state, such as coffee, which has gained tremendous recognition in domestic and foreign markets. Coffee enhances Hawaii's reputation for creating premium quality delicacies and contributes to our visitor industry due to a growing interest in eco-tourism and visits to coffee farms. Therefore, we must take the necessary steps to protect this crop and our agricultural industry overall.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. We hope you will support this important measure.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB482 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 5:11:34 PM

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
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou, Thank you for hearing this important measure, it is paramount that we protect our coffee industry from the berry borer. Farmers need the guidance that a full time DOA specialist in pesticide application will be able to bring to bear. Mahalo, Simon Russell Hawaii Farmers Union United Legislative Committee Chairman

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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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.
Wednesday March 17, 2015**

RE: **Support For HB482 HD2** – Coffee Berry Borer; Pesticide Subsidy Program.

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Committee Members:

Greenwell Farms is a coffee farming, processing, and marketing company in Kona, Hawaii. We export Kona Coffee to locations in Europe, across the Mainland, USA, and all around the Pacific Rim. For decades, we have relied upon the coffee produced by many farmers in North and South Kona to supply us with the highest quality coffee.

The existing Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) epidemic on the Big Island, and now Oahu, poses a real threat to one of the most import agricultural crops in Hawaii. HB482 HD2 provides for a much needed position in the in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to administer important programs and funding allocations necessary to assist the farming communities gain control over this pest.

Our industry is in real trouble with CBB. Passage of SB482 HD2 will greatly contribute to the long term solution to CBB mitigation and the protection of our coffee industry.

PLEASE PASS SB 482 HD2

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Thomas F. Greenwell, President

Steve Hicks, CFO

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: wkatayama@kauaicoffee.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB482 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:50:39 AM

HB482

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Katayama	Kauai Coffee Company,LLC	Support	No

Comments: Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee on Agriculture. CBB has now spread to Oahu. The CBB is a major threat to the Hawaiian coffee industry. More resources are needed to direct efforts in stopping the spread, developing good farming practices and finding treatment process that would lower the cost to the farmer. I strongly support the funding of this position.

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