

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 20, 2019
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1103 HD2 RELATING TO THE PESTICIDE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1103 HD2, relating to the Pesticide Subsidy Program. This bill will appropriate money to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to continue the pesticide subsidy program established under Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014. The funds will be used towards assisting coffee farmers on Hawaii Island, Maui, and Oahu to control the coffee berry borer and mitigate the damage it causes to the coffee beans. The Department supports this measure and requests an amendment.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer is a significant coffee pest in Hawaii and the world. The additional funds will allow the Department to continue to support coffee farmers through the duration of the program. The Department requests that this funding be a general fund appropriation and not be placed into the pesticide use revolving fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





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February 20, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1103, HD2
RELATING TO THE PESTICIDE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1103, HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture 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. The extension of the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program 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.

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:06:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 22, 2019
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1103 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee,

I am Chris Manfredi, President of Hawaii Coffee Association.

The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry, including growers, millers, wholesalers, roasters and retailers located throughout the State of Hawaii. The HCA's primary objective is to increase awareness and consumption of Hawaiian coffees. A major component of HCA's work is the continuing education of members and consumers.

The HCA strongly supports HB 1103 HD1. The Hawaiian green coffee industry is valued at more than \$62MM by USDA - not accounting for retail sales. The advent of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii has threatened our industry to its core. Working together with commodity groups, HDOA, UHCTAHR, USDA, Hawaii Farm Bureau, SHAC, CBB Task Force, lawmakers, administrators, countless volunteers and stakeholders, together, we averted the collapse of Hawaiian coffee - one of Hawaii's signature crops.

The recent discovery of CBB on Maui is alarming to many of our members. Were it not for the support of the legislature via HDOA Pesticide Subsidy Program aimed at controlling Coffee Berry Borer, many more farms would have failed - with resulting unemployment, loss of revenue and potentially becoming a burden to the state. Moreover, abandoned farms act a reservoir for the pest, affecting neighboring farms, reducing crop yields and increasing the cost of control. HB1103 HD 1 represents a modest investment in the Hawaiian Coffee Industry - one that also contributes to tourism.

The cost of production of coffee in Hawaii is generally much higher than any other coffee growing region. The high cost of land, labor, transportation, farm inputs, and regulatory compliance place Hawaii's producers at a competitive disadvantage to our counterparts located beyond our shores. In many instances the cost of CBB management is far less expensive. While we are working as an industry to effect meaningful change in this area, the HDOA subsidy program helps level the playing field for Hawaii's producers.

Thank you for your support of HB 1103 HD1 and for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 4:22:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	Hawaii coffee growers assn.	Support	No

Comments:

please support this bill. Coffee industry needs this important support.



RE: Support for HB1103
RELATING TO PESTICIDE SUBSIDY PROGRAM
HDOA, Pesticide Use Revolving Fund

Aloha Legislators,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association stands in support of this Bill. We represent over 200 farms in the Kona districts and our mission is to protect the economic interests of our growers.

The coffee berry borer (CBB) is a devastating invasive pest that continues to spread around the state. Economically, many smaller farms struggle to keep up with the cost burdens that CBB has introduced. This subsidy increases the participation of growers in pest management and has made control much more effective regionally. By lowering the cost of the product, more growers are likely to treat the pest, and the overall quality of the crop increases. This benefits the state in added income to its resident farmers as well as added tax revenue.

This program should be funded at \$450,000 for the next three years to continue the current rate of subsidy.

My family has three generations who farm coffee and we support ourselves on 100% Kona. Thank you for considering support to this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
President

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 6:36:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alla Kostenko	Ka'u Mountain Farm	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 4:50:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darwin Inman	Kona Hills LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Kona Hills LLC supports HB1103 HD2. The CBB program is vitale to the Coffee Industry.

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 4:59:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis V. Daniele III	Kau Coffee Mill	Support	No

Comments:

I ask you to support HB 1103. The continued support of this bill is essential to the continued vibrancy and economic expansion of our industry. Without this bill passing, we would lose our footing in the world coffee markets, rendering Hawaii nothing more than a coffee can destination.

Sincerely.

Louis V. Daniele III

Ka'u Coffee Mill

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 5:32:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorie Obra	Rusty's Hawaiian LLC	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 12:01:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 4:51:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose state subsidies for use of pesticides. Modern sustainable farming methods could be as effective and much less toxic. Human experimentation (exposure) without informed consent are war crimes. Perpetrators will be held personally and financial responsible for harms inflicted. Purported "safety studies", mainly provided by the same corporations with vested interests in the results, are mired in bias for profiteering from government expenditures = bad science.

There is no rational reason to pollute our own environment or destroy ecosystems.
www.WeAreOne.cc

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:50:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Woolley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:56:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 11:11:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 2:54:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Wikum	Pohaku Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for supporting coffee growers! There are over 1,000 family farms on the Big Island, Oahu and Maui impacted by coffee berry borer.

LATE

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:12:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gloria Camba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I as President of the Kau Coffee Growers Coopertaive request that the subsidy programme be continued. Without the subsidy, the additional financial burden on the farmers to control the Coffee Berry Borer will make many farmers give up coffee farming altogether.

Gloria Camba

President - Kau Coffee Growers Cooperativre

LATE

HB-1103-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:19:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miles Mayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Kau Coffee farmer and would like to register my support for the continuation of the CBB subsidy programme. Without the subsidy, farmers will not be able to afford to spray Botanigard, which is the only known effective insecticide that is in the market and is expensive.