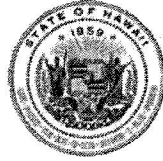


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
STATE OF HAWAII**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FEBRUARY 11, 2011
9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1553
RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVESTIGATION AND
MITIGATION OF DAMAGE DONE BY THE COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1553. House Bill No. 1553 (HB 1553) proposes to appropriate funding from the agricultural development and food security special fund for the investigation and mitigation of damage done by the coffee berry borer in Kona. Some of the funding is to be expended by the University of Hawaii and the balance by the department. The department supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

Section 2 paragraph 5 appears to be a duplication of paragraph 1 and is not necessary.

Section 2 paragraph 6 provides for funding to the department to establish sanitation services to eliminate coffee berry borer infestations on abandoned farms that contain uncultivated coffee in the Kona region. In order to be effective, this action would require the removal of all coffee in abandoned farms as well as all wild growing coffee in

the region. This will be a monumental task, one that will require a community-based effort for the manpower that will be required to survey for abandon fields and for the knock down of these and wild coffee trees throughout the Kona area.

Field trials will soon start with *Beauveria bassiana*, a fungal pathogen used in many coffee producing areas of the world for coffee berry borer control. While some published report indicate effective control using this pathogen in some coffee growing areas in Central and South America, the pathogen must be used as part of an integrated pest management program involving field sanitation (i.e. pickup of fall cherries) and the removal of residue berries from tree at the end of commercial harvest.

These additional input costs may be very difficult for growers in Hawaii to bear because of high labor costs, so new technology development will be essential for Hawaii coffee growers to successfully fight this new pest. Options include biological control for CBB, new pesticide registrations for the control of CBB in the field, the development of chemical attractants to make trapping in the field more effective, or repellants to make ripening berries less inviting to CBB for infestation. A spray product that could hasten the decomposition of fallen berries in the field may prove an effective alternative to the hand picking of berries from the ground to reduce CBB levels in the field.

Coffee Berry Borer has the potential to be a devastating pest of coffee, and immediate steps as proposed in this bill are necessary to help lessen its impact. As such the department supports this bill with amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
February 11, 2011 at 9:00am

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Sylvia Yuen

Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1553 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVESTIGATION AND MITIGATION OF DAMAGE DONE BY THE COFFEE BERRY BORER

The purpose of HB 1553 is to appropriate funds from the agricultural development and food security special fund for investigation and mitigation of damage done by the coffee berry borer. The bill identifies eight items for the use of the funds, two of which shall be expended by the University of Hawai'i, namely:

- To fund investigative research by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) in collaboration with the USDA Pacific Basin Research Center to develop practical techniques for use to combat the effects of the coffee berry borer in the Kona region on the island of Hawai'i; and
- To fund one position in the Kona office of CTAHR's Cooperative Extension Service, whose specific responsibility shall be to assist farmers to implement the coffee berry borer mitigation program.

This testimony is restricted to the aforementioned two items, as other sections of the bill concern other agencies, whose representatives will speak more knowledgeably on those issues.

Hawai'i is the only state in the nation producing coffee, and CTAHR has been instrumental in its success from the beginning. As early as 1901, a report was issued on the location selection, cost of picking and maintenance, and variety selection of coffee. Research reports on pests began in 1904 with the arrival of a coffee blight, and the first Cooperative Extension bulletin entitled *Insects Affecting Coffee in Kona* was disseminated to farmers and others in 1931. During the years when coffee farmers consisted primarily of Japanese immigrants, CTAHR issued bilingual publications to meet their needs. The college's research on coffee production, harvesting, processing—as well as on various pests, such as the black twig borer, crab spider, green scale ant complex, and more recently, the coffee berry borer—have been immensely valuable to the coffee industry. In short, CTAHR's research and extension service have contributed significantly to the viability of Hawai'i's coffee industry.

HB 1553 provides funds to support the research and the Cooperative Extension Service position called for in the bill. This is important as additional resources are needed to fulfill these additional responsibilities. CTAHR will be happy to collaborate with the USDA Pacific Research Center on the research relating to the coffee berry borer in the Kona region.

We support HB 1553 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.

H.B.1553	
Form Letter: David Gridley Jim Wayman Craig Nakatsukasa Gloria Biven Steven McLaughlin Tom Greenwell Edward Schultz Steve Collector Michael Ramm Donna Woolley Maria Holmes	Support

TESTIMONY ON HB 1553 - Making an appropriation for investigation and mitigation of damage done by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle... This bill appropriates funds in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 to mitigate the effects of the coffee berry borer in the Kona region of the island of Hawaii.

Your Name - David Gridley

Company Name or Affiliation – Maui Oma Coffee Roasting Company

YES - FOR PASSAGE OF HB 1553.

HEARING DATE: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2011 AT 9:00 AM

HEARING LOCATION: CONFERENCE ROOM 312

STATE CAPITOL

415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET

TESTIMONY: The coffee berry borer beetle (CBB) represents a potential devastating threat to one of Hawaii's most valued agricultural industries, coffee. It is estimated that in the crop year just completed that 25% of all farms in Kona were infested with CBB. The number of infested farms is certain to grow in the upcoming crop year. It is necessary that the State of Hawaii protect this valuable industry by investing in measures that will limit the expansion of the CBB mitigating the financial impact to farmers, consumers and the Hawaii coffee industry in general.

YES ON 1553

Cut and paste this testimony into an e-mail and send the this address. Your testimony must be e-mailed no later than the close of business on Thursday February 10th:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/>

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pwayman@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pataricia Wayman
Organization: Kona Coffee Council
Address: 1555 Kalani St Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 808 8434213
E-mail: pwayman@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 11:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alfred F Coscina
Organization: Coscina Brothers Coffee
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: _____
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:
I support this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darryl Hara
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Company
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: _____
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jlenhart@hicoffeeco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Lenhart
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jlenhart@hicoffeeco.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: 1
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Terry T. Ikehara
Organization: Individual
Address: :
Phone: 808-935-1300
E-mail: tikehara@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 8:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Suzanne Shriner
Organization: Kona Farmer
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shriner@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

We Kona farmers face a great threat in the Coffee Borer Beetle (CBB).

The answer to that threat is not to let various organizations grab for money. This bill splits funding between several organizations and too much will be wasted in bureaucratic overlap.

Moneys for CBB mitigation should be focused it on research through the University of Hawaii's CTAHR division. This research, and subsequent education, is the best way to truly help the farmers.

Please vote No.

RE: HB 1553

Submitted by: BethAnne Webb

I am opposed to this bill inasmuch as it seeks to spread out the responsibility for fighting the dreaded Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) between several different stakeholders. We need a rapid response in this case and trying to coordinate amongst different agencies would work against that to further delay the efforts that **MUST COME QUICKLY** if we farmers are to have a reasonable chance of effectively fighting the CBB. I have CBB on my farm and fully appreciate that it will likely never be eradicated. The DOA is not the best agency to deal with a research and farmer contact situation, but CTAHR in Kainaliu is and should be the one agency in charge.

I am a certified organic producer and I cannot sell a fumigated product as organic. Please give up the notion of having a fumigation facility when using special bags for transport will protect other islands from being contaminated. We farmer's feel fairly sure that the reason we have CBB on Big Island now is due to the importation of beans which are **SUPPOSED TO BE FUMIGATED** but probably didn't get done properly or at all. The DOA fell down on the job with fumigation or we would not have CBB as a major threat to our livelihoods now.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle D Joven
Organization: Mama's Kona Coffee LLC
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

HB1553 Appropriation for CBB mitigation

As a Kona coffee farmer, I don't want to see the funds to fight the CBB split between 3 or 4 different entities (UH CTAHR, HDOA and the CBB Task Force (which incidentally only has 1 farmer who represents the small farm community, the majority being the big processors and blenders) which will happen if this bill is allowed to pass.

What makes better sense is to provide the funding to the UH CTAHR and to the CBB Committee from the Kona Coffee Farmers Association (not the CBB Task Force supported by the blenders) The KCFA on its own has been in the forefront of researching alternative measures to fumigation; building a fumigation facility or spraying heavy pesticides. It was the KCFA that first identified the naturally growing b.Bassiana fungus as a means to fight the CBB as this is it's natural enemy. In our discussions later with What needs to occur for this bill is that it needs to be more defined as where the money goes. KCFA had sent in a resolution dated November 16, 2010 that funds be allocated to an extension agent and to the UH CTAHR to fight the CBB and other pests that endanger all the farming communities on the Big Island.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 5:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Weaver
Organization: Kona Coffee Farmers Association
Address: Kīai Captain Cook
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill.

HB 1553 CBB Mitigation as drafted, this bill fractures the funds and the process for developing a practical CBB mitigation program for Kona between at least 3 entities, UH CTAHR HDOA and the CBB Task Force. As reflected in KCFAs resolution of November 16, what makes sense is to assign this task and the funding to UH CTAHR where the research capability is located and where the link to Kona farmers is also located with the federally funded Cooperative Extension Service.

Further, I am opposed to pesticide fumigation of Kona coffee (damaging to the crops reputation as a specialty, gourmet, organic product) and to wasting state money on a fumigation facility to be located in our community, especially when alternative non-pesticide measures are available to provide effective protections for other islands.

Signed, Carol Weaver, certified organic Kona coffee farm owner.

EMAIL TESTIMONY AGAINST HB1553

By: Maria da Silva, Kona Rising Coffee Company

Hearing Date: February 11, 2011 9 am Room 312, State Capitol
Committee: House Agriculture Committee

Dear Agriculture Committee Members:

First and foremost as a taxpayer in the State of Hawaii I do not approve taking any monies out of food security special funds to in any way support any food fumigation efforts! The irony is beyond comprehension. Food security and fumigation are at opposite ends of the spectrum.

There is much to be done in terms of coffee berry borer mitigation and HB1553 incorporates some of the best ideas that have been put forth by the Kona coffee farmers community. Funding research by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and PBARQ, funding the position for the Kona office cooperative extension agent, and funding for 3 years for a professional entomologist are all excellent and necessary steps as we move forward in our battle against "La Broca." Kudos on including those items for funding.

However, I see absolutely no benefit nor sound rationale for funding travel and administrative expenses for "the operations of the CBB Task Force." I am a small coffee farmer with 2 farms, one of which was down 53% in production this year and the other 57%. The CBB Task Force has done nothing whatsoever that I can tangibly say has helped me. A volunteer group from the Kona Coffee Farmers Association has been far more beneficial and obtained concrete results in moving things forward than a group of people who want to get paid on my tax payer dime. These people don't have the decency to even meet with us! Who appointed the CBB task force? At this point in time, the entire State of Hawaii will be better served if volunteers for the CBB task force are requested to step forward. Those wishing to travel and dine on the backs of the poor farmers who are being decimated by this pestilence should resign from their appointed positions.

The bill begins to address the issue of unattended infestations but only starts to address it. As written, this sounds like this will just provide a few jobs for our down economy. The issue is not only one of abandoned farms. There are many homeowners who have coffee on their lands but for a multiplicity of reasons do not tend to their farms. What penalties will be imposed on persons who do not take the necessary mitigations measures against the beetle? And what about all the volunteer coffee trees along roadsides that no one tends to? Many of these trees are old private roads on the utility right of way and no one person/entity is responsible for these trees. The issue of enforcing the best practices mitigation measures is going to be huge. The war against the CBB can either be won or lost because of the enforcement issue. As long as none of the monies being asked for in this bill are

being used for enforcement then it doesn't really matter what any of the entities who receive the monies do- it will be a wasted expenditure of all of these dollars.

I am horrified that there is any consideration being given to using public monies for a fumigation site. Very few of the 600 or so Kona Coffee Farmers under quarantine export green coffee that needs to be fumigated. The entities that need to get their green coffee off island are private businesses (mostly the mills) that should foot their own bill. Why is government and my tax payer dollars going to pay for some private industry fumigation site? At the next election when the minute list of business that use the site are named (and since it will be a publicly funded operation this information will be available) voters will certainly know how to judge their legislators. In addition to which, I would hope that the uproar in the community if a permanent food fumigation site attempts to established that some type of environmental study is necessary and one can only imagine the cost of doing that battle. Again, please check with the current fumigator to find out how many farmers vs processors are using their facility?

Mahalo ,

Respectfully submitted,

Maria de Fatima da Silva
Kona Coffee Farmer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 7:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joan Prater Pua Kea Coffee
Organization: Pua Kea Coffee, Kona Coffee Farmers Assoc
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

This bill fractures the funds for a CBB mitigation program between UH CTAHR, HDOA and CBB Task Force. Funding should be assigned to UH CTAHR where the research capability is located with the link to Kona Coffee Farmers and Federally funded Coop Extension Service. PLEASE no pesticide fumigation of Kona Coffee. A fumigation facility located in Kona is a waste of money. Other non-pesticide measures are available to protect the other Islands.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacqueline Wikum
Organization: Pohaku Kona Coffee Farms
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

Where is all this money going? Not to research, and not to the farmers. The beetle is a problem, but in this economic climate, I think we can better target nearly a million dollars.
Vote No.

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Paul Uster
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

I am a coffee farmer in Kahalu'u- Keahou mauka in the Kona region and a newly elected Board Member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association (KCFA).

I don't sit behind a desk, and I don't manage an organization. I am the guy on the front line who fertilizes mulches, and sprays the trees, carries water to the trees in drought, and picks coffee every week during harvest season.

I am opposed to HB 1553 as drafted in total, but there are some acceptable parts.

Specifically:

Section 2, paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) are good as written and will benefit the guy on the front line.

Strike Section 2, paragraph (4). There is no need for new equipment and the expensive maintenance that probably comes with it. This is not the best use of budget money; the borer map has already been created, and changes to the map can be generated by collecting samples from the mill.

Amend Section 2, paragraph (5) to read "The entomologist hired by the department of agriculture will be responsible for coordinating services between the agencies named in this bill and will provide monthly reports to the coffee berry borer task force and solicit input on priorities." There are several entities involved in this bill and we need a way to prevent duplication of effort.

Strike Section 2, paragraph (6). It's a good idea, but will be impossible to implement effectively. First, you will have to get the owners or lienholders to agree. Then, "elimination" according to our own university experts, means sanitary removal of all berry on the trees and the ground. This means clear-cutting, burning, and/or bull-dozing. It will be an ecological disaster. It will just be tossing budget money down a hole.

In a world overrun with the berry borer, the quarantine exists only to protect the other islands from the Big Island, but I bet the horse has left the barn on the other islands. Strike Section 2, paragraph (7). This is a waste of taxpayer money because there is already a commercial service up and running. Also, pallets and pallets of green coffee are already being shipped by air directly from Kona to the mainland without

transshipping via Honolulu. Finally, fumigated coffee tastes off, and we don't need to further erode Kona's reputation for quality and purity.

Section 2, Paragraph (8) needs to have only a minimal amount of appropriated funds in it to prevent misuse.

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cecelia Smith
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

Cecelia Smith

www.Smithfarms.com- owner and Kona Coffee Farmers Association- member
House Agriculture Committee

Friday, February 11, 2011 at 9:00 am in Room 312, State Capitol

As drafted, this bill splits the funding and the processing for developing a **comprehensive** and **practical** CBB mitigation program for Kona between at least 3 entities, UH CTAHR HDOA and the CBB Task Force.

What does make sense is, to assign this task and the funding to UH CTAHR where the research capability is located and where the link to Kona farmers is also located with the federally funded Cooperative Extension Service.

Further more,I am totally opposed to pesticide fumigation of Kona coffee (damaging to the crop's reputation as a specialty, gourmet, organic product) and to wasting State money on a fumigation facility to be located in our community, especially when alternative non-pesticide measures are available to provide effective protections for other islands. **Please!!!!**

My husband and I have farmed Kona Coffee for 23 years and part of the reputation of our 100% Kona Coffee, besides its superior taste is the fact that nothing touches our coffee, besides water, from our farm to our customer's cup.

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:02 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bendysart@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ben Dysart
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua-Kona, HI
Phone:
E-mail: bendysart@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

Sirs, I am a kona coffee farmer an a member of the Kona Coffee Farmer's Association and I have attended the CBB meetings and workshops since shortly after their inception. I believe that the local coffee farmer's response and effort has been rapid and as effective as possible. We, however need support from Hawaii's Department of Agriculture in this and so far their representation and support has not been as rapid or consistent with the on the ground knowledge. Legislation and support must be more consistent with the on the ground efforts. I therefore oppose bill HB1553 Appropriation for CBB mitigation and request that the Department of Agriculture be authorized (and funded) to assist the farmers of the Big Island in, above all, PRACTICAL efforts.

Mahalo Ben, a Kona coffee farmer.

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 7:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: john@konaloha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1553 on 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/11/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1553

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Koontz
Organization: Individual
Address: 81-870 Makahiki Ln. Captain Cook, HI
Phone: 707-832-8824
E-mail: john@konaloha.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

Assign this task and the funding to UH CTAHR where the research capability is located.