



LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Friday, February 11, 2011
9:00am
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Supporting Testimony for HB 1553; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVESTIGATION AND MITIGATION OF DAMAGE DONE BY THE COFFEE BERRY BORER

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations, **strongly supports HB 1553.**

The Hawaiian coffee industry, statewide, is threatened by the newly discovered Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Kona, on Hawai'i Island.

CBB is the most destructive pest known to the global coffee industry, being responsible for approximately a half a billion dollars in annual losses.

Upon discovery of the destructive pest, the coffee industry quickly mobilized and created an ad-hoc task force made up of industry leaders, USDA, HDOA, UH CTAHR, HARC and PBARC. This task force worked quickly and collaboratively to implement a quarantine and necessary protocols, and established network for communication, education, control and mitigation that has been a near-perfect model. Many members have donated multiple hours of time and private funds.

HB 1553 serves to fund the budgetary recommendations of the CBB Task Force. We are aware of the budgetary challenges we collectively face. **This is a critical funding measure.** CBB must be quickly brought under control if the Hawaiian coffee industry is to flourish.

A decimation of the Hawaiian coffee industry would result in a significant loss of tax, tourism and agri-tourism revenues and increased unemployment. Simply put, the state can ill afford to not invest in this measure and the decisive action it represents.

Please offer your support of HB 1553!

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this critical measure.

Chris Manfredi
Vice President; Chair, Government Affairs

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

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brent Hight

Organization: Koa Coffee

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Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

Our company owns or leases 9 different properties in the Kona District also we mill for lots of farmers that are affected by this bug. The costs are a considerable concern to us.

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. In a year when the overall crop is down this pest has added to the loss of yields of our precious Kona Coffee. The number of invested 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 entire Hawaii coffee industry in general.