

**I AM STRONGLY IN SUPPORT HB 283.** The Kona Coffee industry is and has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010! The spread of this destructive Beetle is on a huge uptick. This year alone it estimated that at least 20-25% of the crop value of our famous Kona Coffee has been lost in 2011! Farmers that are fighting the CBB with funds they don't have and are experiencing significantly reduced income from their crop, which has the distinct possibility of eliminating any potential profit in the coming years from farming Coffee in Kona and or the Big Island as the pest spreads. Funds are desperately needed to help eliminate feral coffee, which only one step that can help in curtailing the spread of CBB on the Big Island. We must do everything possible to keep this Bug from spreading to other coffee growing regions in Hawaii. Hawaii is the only US Coffee growing state in the US and we must help protect that all island commerce.



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

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Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
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March 28, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 283, HD1, SD1  
RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

Room 211  
9:35 AM

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 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.

HFBF is in strong support of HB 283, HD1, SD1 which authorizes the transfer of \$140,000 from the agricultural loan revolving fund to the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund for a program to control and eradicate Coffee Berry Borer (CBB).

The recent discovery of CBB in Kona threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. Shortly after its discovery, a small number of Ka'u Farms have been identified as hosting the beetle. Ka'u is different than Kona in that affected farms are more centralized and are not surrounded by feral coffee. Feral coffee acts as reservoir for the pest, mitigating the impacts of even the best management techniques. Ka'u's aggressive response to CBB may not be easily replicated on neighbor islands. Large farms both on Maui and Kauai utilize machine harvesting, making good sanitation practices very costly, if not impossible.

While the full tally is yet to be made, Kona has been experiencing losses on the magnitude of 20-40%. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the farm gate 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.

The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. An ad-hoc CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. Industry has committed \$50,000 toward the effort. Countless private dollars continue to be expended in the fight. Legislation that proposed a self-imposed 1 cent per pound fee on all coffee grown or imported to the state failed earlier this session. Federal grant applications are currently being developed.

This appropriation should be viewed as an investment one of the state's largest agricultural products and one that brings fame to Hawaii and helps drives tourism.

HFBF respectfully request that you support this measure.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

**Ka'u Farm Bureau  
PO Box 1109  
Naalehu Hawaii 96772  
808-929-9550**

**TESTIMONY ON HB283 HD1 SD1**

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 29, 2012  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

**Appropriates \$140,000 for a program to control coffee berry borer.**

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

**Ka'u Farm Bureau strongly supports HB283 HD1 SD1.**

The recent discovery of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Kona threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. Shortly after its discovery, a small number of Ka'u Farms have been identified as hosting the beetle. Ka'u is different than Kona in that our affected farms are more centralized and are not surrounded by feral coffee. Feral coffee acts as reservoir for the pest, mitigating the impacts of even the best management techniques. Ka'u's aggressive response to CBB may not be easily replicated on neighbor islands. Large farms both on Maui and Kauai utilize machine harvesting, making good sanitation practices very costly, if not impossible.

While the full tally is yet to be made, Kona has been experiencing losses on the magnitude of 20-40%. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the farm gate 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.

The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. An ad-hoc CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. Industry has committed \$50K toward the effort. Countless private dollars continue to be expended in the fight. Legislation that proposed a self-imposed 1 cent per pound fee on all coffee grown or imported to the state failed earlier this session. Federal grant applications are currently being developed.

This appropriation should be viewed as an investment one of the state's largest agricultural products and one that brings fame to Hawaii and helps drives tourism.

Please approve this measure.

Thank you!

Chris Manfredi  
President

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com](mailto:coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:10:17 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: David Bateman  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com](mailto:coffee@heavenlyhawaiian.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 283 HD 1 SD1. The Kona Coffee industry has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010. It is estimated that 20% of the farm gate value of the Kona Coffee crop was lost in 2011. 90% of our farms are adversely impacted. 300 of the 900+ farms have suffered losses of 50-100% Farmers are reporting that costs have risen significantly from fighting the CBB. The coffee that has been processed for markets have been severely downgraded causing further losses. this industry is in crisis mode.

The proposed funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee on the Big Island which is an important first step in curtailing the spread of CBB. We must do everything possible to keep this problem from spreading to any other coffee growing region in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my written testimony in SUPPORT of HB 283 HD1 SD1.

Dave Bateman  
Heavenly Hawaiian Farms  
Holualoa HI  
808 322 7720

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [mauioma@maui.net](mailto:mauioma@maui.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:09:04 PM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: David Gridley  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mauioma@maui.net](mailto:mauioma@maui.net)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 283. The Kona Coffee Industry has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer. It is estimated that 20% of the farm gate value of the Kona coffee crop was lost in 2011. Farmers costs have risen significantly in efforts to fight CBB. Funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee on the Big Island which is an important first step to curtailing the spread of CBB. We must do everything possible to keep this problem from spreading to other coffee growing regions in Hawaii!!!

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [gbiven@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:gbiven@hicoffeeco.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:01:00 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Gloria Biven  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [gbiven@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:gbiven@hicoffeeco.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:  
I am in STRONG support of HB 283

The Kona Coffee industry has been crushed by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010. It is estimated that 20% of the value of the Kona Coffee crop was lost in 2011. Costs have risen significantly from fighting the CBB. Funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee land on the Big Island which is an important first step in diminishing the spread of CBB. We must do everything available to us to keep this problem from spreading to any other coffee growing region in Hawaii.

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**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:50:01 PM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Greg Stille  
Organization: Maui Coffee Association  
E-mail: [gjstille@aol.com](mailto:gjstille@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

WE, THE MAUI COFFEE ASSOCIATION STONGLY SUPPORT HB 283. The Kona Coffee industry has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010. It is estimated that 20% of the farm gate value of the Kona Coffee crop was lost in 2011. Farmers costs have risen significantly from fighting the CBB. Funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee on the Big Island which is an important first step in curtailing the spread of CBB. We must do everything possible to keep this problem from spreading to any other coffee growing region in Hawaii.



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**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:47:21 PM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Greg Stille  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [gjstille@aol.com](mailto:gjstille@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I STONGLY SUPPORT HB 283. The Kona Coffee industry has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010. It is estimated that 20% of the farm gate value of the Kona Coffee crop was lost in 2011. Farmers costs have risen significantly from fighting the CBB. Funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee on the Big Island which is an important first step in curtailing the spread of CBB. We must do everything possible to keep this problem from spreading to any other coffee growing region in Hawaii.

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**Cc:** [jkimof@msn.com](mailto:jkimof@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:14:54 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James K Falconer  
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn  
E-mail: [jkimof@msn.com](mailto:jkimof@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair and members.

Please support this bill to assist the coffee growers in this desperate time of our industry. Any funding whatsoever will help get the necessary programs started in response to this terrible pest that has destroyed the 2011-12 Kona coffee crop.

Thank you.

James Falconer

President, Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn.

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
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**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:57:38 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Jim Wayman  
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Association  
E-mail: [jwayman@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:jwayman@hicoffeeco.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I STONGLY SUPPORT HB 283. The Kona Coffee industry has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010. It is estimated that 20% of the farm gate value of the Kona Coffee crop was lost in 2011. Farmers costs have risen significantly from fighting the CBB. Funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee on the Big Island which is an important first step in curtailing the spread of CBB. We must do everything possible to keep this problem from spreading to any other coffee growing region in Hawaii.

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**Cc:** [jonathan@makahikifarms.com](mailto:jonathan@makahikifarms.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:10:12 PM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jonathan Sechrist  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jonathan@makahikifarms.com](mailto:jonathan@makahikifarms.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I am a strong supporter of HB283. As a family-owned and operated vertically-integrated 100% Kona Coffee farm we have seen the effects of CBB on 100% Kona Coffee from the beans growing in the orchard, through the wet and dry milling processes, through grading and roasting, and ultimately on our income.

As individual farmers we can take strong action for our farms and to educate and help other farmers, but there is nothing we can do about the wild and abandoned coffee that is an ideal breeding ground for CBB.

We are being squeezed on both ends by increased costs to fight CBB, by reduced quality yields, and by reduced prices due to a damaged crop.

The funds allocated by HB283 will be a great help to control and eradicate CBB. Please support HB283.

Mahalo!

Jonathan Sechrist  
Makahiki Farms  
Captain Cook, HI

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [jkimof@msn.com](mailto:jkimof@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:20:50 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kimo Falconer  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jkimof@msn.com](mailto:jkimof@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Dear chair and members,

As the only grower of certified coffee from the island of Maui, I urge your support in this measure to assist the industry in getting a leg up on this pest. The remainder of the islands do not currently have this pest and your help will assist us in keeping it that way until we can develop real programs to fight it. Coffee is one of the few rising stars in Hawaii Agriculture. There is a great economic future for it here, the State needs to recognize that their help will benefit a very large portion of the economy.

Thank you,

Kimo Falconer, President, MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

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**Cc:** [maria@coffeesofhawaii.com](mailto:maria@coffeesofhawaii.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:08:58 PM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Maria Holmes  
Organization: Coffees of Hawaii, LLC  
E-mail: [maria@coffeesofhawaii.com](mailto:maria@coffeesofhawaii.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

The Kona Coffee industry has been decimated by the Coffee Berry Borer Beetle (CBB) which was discovered in 2010. It is estimated that 20% of the farm gate value of the Kona Coffee crop was lost in 2011. Farmers costs have risen significantly from fighting the CBB. Funds are desperately needed to eliminate feral coffee on the Big Island which is an important first step in curtailing the spread of CBB. We must do everything possible to keep this problem from spreading to any other coffee growing region in Hawaii.

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**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:03:24 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Roger Kaiwi  
Organization: Kona Coffee Council  
E-mail: [rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:  
I stongly support HB283.

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**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:04:10 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Stacie Loo  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [sloo@yahoo.com](mailto:sloo@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:  
I strongly support HB280.



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**Subject:** Testimony for HB283 on 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:23:07 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:35:00 AM HB283

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Steve Collector  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [sjcollector@msn.com](mailto:sjcollector@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments: